

Tax cuts and Moscow trip point to poll

● Tax cuts in the Budget tomorrow and the Prime Minister's trip to the Soviet Union are held up as pointers to a general election, possibly in June.

● The Liberals believe Mrs Thatcher will go to the country in eight weeks. Labour called for self-discipline, and not to let enemies distort "sideshows".

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The political parties are intensifying their preparations for an early general election in the growing belief that a combination of circumstances has emerged that will convince the Prime Minister that she will never have a better opportunity of winning a third successive term.

The increasing Conservative lead in the polls, Labour's apparent decline to its worst position since 1983 and the expected electoral benefits of tomorrow's Budget and Mrs Margaret Thatcher's visit at the end of the month to Moscow are expected by senior politicians to encourage her to opt for May or, far more likely, June.

Speculation about an early election was hardening yesterday after a MORI opinion poll published in *The Sunday Times*.

Taken during the renewed period of Labour troubles after the Greenwich by-election defeat and the outbreak of fighting over its defence policy, it showed the Conservatives with a lead of 9 per cent, its largest, since the bombing in Brighton two and a half years ago.

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is tomorrow expected to introduce a tax-cutting Budget, combined with a reduction in borrowing to pave the way for a fall in interest rates, which

Elector doubt value of tax cuts

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Most people believe that tax cuts will increase inflation and lead to more money being spent on imported goods but will not result in the creation of more jobs, according to a new opinion poll.

They do believe, however, that tax reductions will give people an incentive to work harder.

With Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, poised in tomorrow's Budget to dispose of some £5 billion in a pre-election tax-cutting bonanza, combined with a substantial cut in public borrowing, a MORI poll for *The Times* Newspapers discloses considerable doubt among electors about some of the benefits claimed by the Government for its strategy.

The scepticism is particularly marked among supporters of the Liberal-Social Democrat Alliance, which last week confirmed its intention to vote against any income tax cuts introduced by Mr Lawson tomorrow.

Asked in the survey whether tax cuts tomorrow would result in more jobs being created, 58 per cent of respondents said that they would not and 25 per cent said they would.

Surprisingly, 4 per cent more Conservative supporters doubted the job-creating potential of tax cuts, while 72 per cent of Alliance supporters said that cuts did not mean more jobs.

Mr Lawson is expected by Conservative MPs tomorrow to cut income tax by at least 2p, some think a 3p reduction is likely, together with changes in the tax thresholds to help those on lower incomes.

Alongside that will come a big reduction, perhaps up to £1.5 billion, in public borrowing to ease the new £100 billion reduction in interest rates.

An increase in the mortgage tax relief limit from £30,000 to £35,000, also believed to be likely.

Mr Tony Blair, Opposition Treasury spokesman, yesterday predicted a "giveaway Budget in preparation for the election."

He said the extra £5 billion came from a mixture of extra taxes, creative accounting and consumer spending on imports. "This is money which should be used for long-term investment, not short-term consumption. The Government knows perfectly well that this Budget is a one-off for the election, beware the Bribes of March."

In the MORI poll, only 1 per cent more of those questioned (43 per cent to 42 per cent) believed that tax cuts would help to get the economy moving.

Nearly two thirds of Conservative supporters thought they would, but a majority of both Labour (53 per cent) and Alliance (59 per cent) backers thought they would not.

Most voters, including most Conservative supporters and a 1 per cent margin of Labour supporters questioned, although not Alliance supporters, believed that tax cuts would give people an incentive to work harder.

More supporters of all three parties, by a margin of 43 per cent to 35 per cent, believed that cuts would leave people to spend a lot more on imported goods.

More people thought tax cuts would increase inflation (41 per cent), than thought they would not increase inflation (36 per cent). Forty-nine per cent of Conservative supporters thought that they would not, but nearly half of Labour and Alliance (both 47 per cent) supporters thought that they would.

MORI interviewed 1,791 adults between Mar 6-11 at 172 sampling points.

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Tax burden	12
City plea	19

ated, 58 per cent of respondents said that they would not and 25 per cent said they would.

But both spoke strongly of the need to bring the political debate back to central issues such as unemployment, housing, health and education.

Labour, whose election planning covers equally the May and June options, will this week be unveiling its training plans for adult workers, school leavers and the unemployed, and next week its industrial investment proposals.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, buoyant after the Truro victory, told his party at the weekend that the Prime Minister could call the election in eight weeks.

Mr Steel originally expected an autumn election, but believes that the Prime Minister will be under pressure from her party to go early in case the Alliance revival continues to such a point where it takes over in second place from Labour in the polls.

Yesterday's poll put the Conservatives on 41 per cent, Labour on 32 per cent (3 per cent down on February) and the Alliance on 25 per cent (up 4 per cent).

Men back Tories, page 2

Christening for the youngest survivor



Mrs Beryl Zatic with her granddaughter, Carly, at the christening in Halifax yesterday.

Hopeful face of Zeebrugge disaster

A young couple cradled their 10-week-old daughter in a Yorkshire church yesterday at a christening that at one time they thought might never happen.

Nine days earlier the couple, Mr Peter Zatic, a soldier aged 22, his wife Julie, aged 20, and their daughter Carly, had been rescued from the Herald of Free Enterprise, the Townsend Thoresen ferry which capsized off the coast of Belgium with the loss of more than a hundred lives.

Carly, who was born on January 4 in West Germany where her father is stationed, was the youngest survivor from the ferry and yesterday she was christened at the Serbian Orthodox Free Church of John the Baptist in Boothtown, Halifax, West Yorkshire.

The couple's parents, including Mr Zatic's Yugoslavian-born father, live in Dumfries but the nearest Serbian Orthodox church is in Halifax and so the families made the 400-mile round trip for the ceremony.

Mr Zatic is a lance corporal in the Royal Corps of Transport stationed at Sennelager, West Germany.

He and his wife made the trip home just for the christening. They had intended taking a later ferry but arrived in Zeebrugge early enough to board the Herald of Free Enterprise at 6pm on March 6.

They were sitting outside the cafeteria when the boat keeled over. Mrs Zatic managed to hand Carly, who was in her sleeping bag, to Peter before she was swept away and hurled against a window.

Mr and Mrs Zatic were rescued separately by frogmen but neither of them knew the fate of the other until six hours later and they were not reunited for a further four hours.

● Three conflicting sets of official figures yesterday added to the confusion over the number of people still missing 10 days after the ferry disaster.

The Townsend Thoresen estimate of 78 people missing, based on the passenger manifest and crew list, was challenged at the weekend by Mr Hermann de Croo, the Belgian Minister of Transport, who put the figure as high as 164.

Kent police said yesterday that they were working on the basis of 145 missing after reports from Britons.

● A modified system of warning lights to check whether loading doors are closed are to be fitted to all Townsend Thoresen ferries within a month.

INSIDE

A million pupils hit by strike

More than a million pupils in England and Wales are expected to be sent home early from school today, when nearly 90,000 teachers will stage the fourth in a series of half-day strikes which have closed schools at midday.

At least 1,000 secondary schools are likely to be affected as well as up to 4,000 primary schools. Most schools in Greater London are expected to close.

Page 3

TIMES BUSINESS

Ship designs

The state-owned British Shipbuilders is launching three designs for specialist vessels — a products tanker, refrigerated cargo vessel and a scientific research ship — to help to boost profits.

Page 19

TIMES SPORT

Spurs through

The FA Cup quarter-finals were completed with 2-0 away wins by Tottenham Hotspur at Wimbledon, and Leeds United at Wigan.

Page 38

Test collapse

West Indies seven-year dominance of Test cricket came to an abrupt end when they were beaten by five wickets inside three days by New Zealand in Christchurch.

Page 36

Portfolio Gold

● The £28,000 prize in *The Times* Portfolio Gold weekly competition was shared by five readers. Details, page 3.

● In the daily competition there is £8,000 to be won today, double the usual amount as there was no winner on Saturday.

● Portfolio list, page 18.

INDEX

Home News	2-5
Overseas	6-8
Business	19-23
Sport	35-38
Appointments	24-25
Arts	17
Births, deaths, marriages	15
Chess	28-29
City Diary	21
Court	22
Crème de la Crème	10-38
Crosswords	12
Entertainments	16
Features	10-12
Information	16
Law Report	23
Leading articles	13
Letters	13
Nature notes	14
Obituary	14
Religion	14
Science	15
Snow Reports	36
TV & Radio	37
Universities	15
Weather	38
Wills	15

Drop in base rates may follow Budget

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, will tomorrow deliver a Budget cutting both interest rates and taxes in the biggest "giveaway" since Mr RA Butler's Budget of 1955.

Mr Lawson has scope for a cut in income tax of up to 4p in the pound which would bring the basic rate down to his target level of 25p. But he will also cut the level of Government borrowing to maintain a prudent financial strategy.

The Budget is expected to be followed by a cut of 1/2-1 percentage points in bank base rates, enough to persuade building societies to bring down the mortgage rate.

Cuts in income tax will reach the pockets of employees on the first pay day after May 17 while mortgage rates could come down in time for payments in either April or May. So the double bonus for tax and mortgage payers will come in time for an early summer election.

Mr Lawson has been restrained from putting big increases on beer, spirits or petrol by the upturn in inflation. But the election-sensitive rise in the retail price index will be curbed by lower mortgage rates.

The Budget has been designed not only to cut taxes but to improve the working of the economy. The Chancellor is expected to go ahead with plans for encouraging a link between profitability and the pay packet and may give a further boost to employee share schemes.

He is likely also to refine the Business Expansion Scheme which provides tax relief on business investment by individuals. And he will raise the threshold at which companies have to register for VAT.

There will be incentives for wider share ownership. Last year Mr Lawson unveiled the new Personal Equity Plan giving a restricted amount of tax relief to individual investors.

The Chancellor will sketch a buoyant outlook for the economy with growth forecast to reach at least 3 per cent this year compared with 2½ per cent last year. And he will hold out the hope of lower unemployment.

But additional public spending on big new employment measures is not expected after the package announced by Lord Young earlier this year.

Japanese cash to unite Western science research

From David Watts, Tokyo

Within the next few months the Japanese Prime Minister will launch the Human Frontier project, a scheme for international co-operation on fundamental scientific research.

Feasibility studies have almost been concluded and involve scientists from the United States, Britain and European Economic Community countries, who have outlined to Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone what they would like to see in the programme.

On April 1 an international group of "wise men" will meet in London to review the project's viability.

The most fascinating aspect of the project would be an attempt to master the functions of the brain and muscles and see how they might be incorporated into the computers and machines of the future.

The 20-year Human Frontier programme, half of it funded by the Japanese, is an expression of the scientific strengths and weaknesses of Japan and its timing is a deft attempt to ally Western fears about what is rapidly becoming a reality: Japan's technical dominance bringing it economic dominance.

At a time when governments are unable significantly to increase spending on research, Human Frontier offers an opportunity to spread the load and share research results while allowing the Japanese to pay back some of the basic

Funding research

research benefits they have had from the West since the late 1800s.

Japan can expect to have an experimental Computer Integrated Manufacturing system (CIM), which would ultimately allow design, manufacture and production in a factory to be handled entirely by computers, up and running in two years.

Five years from now the first viable CIM factory in Japan is expected to be turning out a wide range of products, differing from day to day with the change of a computer program.

Given the Japanese genius for organizing people and machines in the manufacturing process, what Tokyo University predicts today will come true and Japan will lead the world into truly automated manufacture.

Computer-aided design and manufacture will be so sophisticated that the computer in control of production will be able to question its inanimate colleague in the design department with nary a human in sight.

But beyond such projects, which are already well defined, under way and have a good chance of swift commercial application, Japan's scientific future is uncertain.

The Human Frontier project is a benchmark because it is recognition of a number of things: first is the fact that Japan has learnt just about all it can from Western countries which are, in any case, no longer willing to see so much of their original work start

Labour's levy for training

By Our Chief Political Correspondent

Companies will be required to contribute to a national training fund under a future Labour government, Mr John Prescott, the party's employment spokesman said yesterday.

This would be a way of tackling "industrial free-loaders who refuse to train and prefer to poach", he told an Institute of Personnel management conference.

Mr Prescott said that while Labour supported effective management, a revolution in management attitudes was needed if industry was to be put on its feet.

"We have the worst-trained, worst-paid labour force, with the fewest employment rights of any advanced industrial country. And management, trade unions and government must all take their share of the blame."

Labour's plans will be spelt out in detail in a major policy statement this week.

Mr Prescott accused British management of being short-sighted in its attitudes to training, workforce involvement and company organization. "If British industry is to be competitive, that has to change."

He said: "The reality is that British industry does not take training seriously. It is a cost to be cut rather than an investment which pays dividends in the future."

Mr Prescott promised: "Labour will support the best examples of training, and work to bring the rest up to the best."

"We will need a system where a minimum level and quality of training is established for particular sectors. He said that special training and retaining would be given to women and to black people."

Spending by firms on training would be supported by contributions from the National Training Fund, and grants would be available for specific schemes.

Scottish assembly

Black sections

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INLA chief murdered in feud

Gerard "Dr Death" Steenson, leader of an Irish National Liberation Army breakaway faction, was gunned down on a Belfast street yesterday.

Steenson, aged 29, and Anthony McCarthy, aged 31, died after a hail of gunfire — the latest victims of the feud within the hard-line Republican terrorist organization.

Steenson was regarded by many as the man who started the internal battle.

The INLA faction which claimed responsibility for the murders said that Steenson was shot because he had been behind a series of recent killings linked to the feud.

Steenson and McCarthy, a father-of-three, were ambushed as they drove along Springfield Avenue, a back street in the Ballymurphy area, shortly after midnight.

Gunmen stepped from the shadows and riddled the men's car with bullets. It careered off the road and crashed into a fence. The two died in hospital later.

Ten people have been shot dead and 11 injured in the past few months as the organization — it planted the bomb that killed Tory MP Airey Neave in 1979 — turned on itself.

The INLA said yesterday that Steenson was shot by the organization's Belfast Brigade.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary had long believed Steenson to be one of the most active terrorists in Ulster.

In 1983, he was jailed for life after being convicted of six murders on the word of INLA informer Harry Kirkpatrick.

Last December he was among a large group of alleged INLA men freed on appeal after the validity of Kirkpatrick's evidence was questioned.

Once out on the streets Steenson is claimed to have initiated a ruthless purge of those in the INLA he considered to be amateur terrorists more concerned with petty crime than "the cause".

Another faction of the INLA calling itself "the INLA Army Council", said Steenson was a "well respected member" of the INLA.

It said his murder would not prevent them carrying on with its campaign to try to dissolve the organization. It also said that the other victim did not belong to the INLA. It said Anthony McCarthy was a lifelong friend of Steenson, who had offered him a lift.



Gerard Steenson: latest victim of INLA's internal war

Tamil link as 60 die in rail blast

By Our Foreign Staff

At least 60 people were reported killed and 200 injured when an express train in southern India plunged from a bridge into a dry river bed after two remote-controlled bombs blasted the track.

Pamphlets backing the Sri Lankan Tamil separatist struggle were recovered near the bridge, police said.

Witnesses said the two explosions, seconds apart, sent the Rockfort Express plunging off Marudayar Bridge about 40 miles from Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu state at 4.42 am.

Rescue workers said the death toll could reach 100.

● ISLAMABAD: Two people, thought to be saboteurs, were killed by a bomb blast on a railway bridge in Pakistan's Baluchistan province bordering Afghanistan and Iran, the official APP news agency said.

Innocent die, page 7

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Continued on page 6, col 5

NEWS SUMMARY

Boy survives fall from Irish ferry

A boy who stopped breathing after he fell from a Sealink ferry into icy waters off Holyhead, north Wales, early on Sunday was on his way home to Ireland last night. Patrick Cassidy, aged 15, of Donegal, was found with his head under water by two boathouse workers in a rescue launch more than 20 minutes after he fell from the ferry, St Columba, travelling from Dun Laoghaire to Holyhead. After more than 30 minutes' artificial respiration, he began to breathe again and was rushed to Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital, Bangor, where he was later discharged. "He is a little shocked but otherwise he is fine. He is a very lucky boy", Mr Alan Davies, the hospital administrator, said. Dr Harold Hillman, of Surrey University, said people could normally survive for 20 to 30 minutes before losing consciousness in water of about 3C to 4C. "Many people fail to realize that when the heart stops beating because of the cold it does not necessarily mean the person is dead", he said. The body needs less oxygen, and a person is less likely to suffer brain damage.

Spy series 'cut to 3' Three in contest

The BBC is considering scheduling only three of the six episodes of *The Secret Service* series because of outstanding legal problems with two of them and the continued confiscation of the episode about the Zircos spy satellite. The disclosure yesterday was offered as an alternative explanation of why the corporation withdrew the series from its March television schedule. The main concern was that one of the programmes was libellous, and a second threatened the BBC with a contempt of court charge. Three former Irish government ministers yesterday laid claim to leadership of the opposition Fine Gael party after the resignation of Dr Garret FitzGerald. Mr Peter Barry, aged 58, former foreign minister, Mr Alan Dukes, aged 41, former justice minister, and Mr John Bruton, aged 39, former finance minister, declared themselves candidates for party leadership when Fine Gael's parliamentary party meets on Saturday to choose a leader who will take the party into the next decade.

Austin staff changes

Austin Rover is changing its top engineering staff for the second time in six months. Two directors are to take early retirement and a third is understood to have been dismissed on Friday (Our Motor Industry Correspondent writes). The company has yet to announce to employees the early retirement of Mr Joe Farrahman, aged 62, director of product engineering, and Mr Ray Bates, aged 58, director of vehicle engineering, and it declined to comment on the abrupt departure of Mr Ron McIntosh, director of facilities and programme operations, from the Canley engineering centre. The new appointments to the engineering department are likely to reflect the attempt by Mr Graham Day, the chairman of Rover Group, to improve the quality of Austin Rover cars and the shift to product development being led by marketing rather than engineering. Last September Mr Day pushed out Mr Mark Snowden, managing director of product development, along with the chairman of Austin Rover and the finance director.

Proctor bailed

Mr Harvey Proctor, the Conservative MP for Bournemouth, was released on police bail at the weekend after being questioned about allegations involving male prostitutes. Mr Proctor, aged 40, was arrested by officers from Scotland Yard's serious crimes squad and interviewed for several hours before being freed. Afterwards the Yard said no charges had been brought. The MP has denied any connection with any prostitutes and related suggestions that he might resign his seat.

Young male voters are leaning towards Tories

The rise in Conservative support over the past month has been particularly marked among men, the 18-34 age group and unskilled workers, according to the MORI poll. While the Conservative lead nationally has risen from 6 to 9 per cent, among men it has risen from 4 to 10 per cent, among young people from a Labour lead of 1 per cent to a Tory lead of 6 per cent, and among unskilled workers the Labour lead has been cut from 21 to 14 per cent. There has been a surge in the Tory lead in the Midlands and Wales from 4 to 14 per cent, but negligible change in the party's position in the South and the North, including Scotland.

CONSERVATIVE LEAD			
Figures pre and post Greenwich by-election			
	Pre	Post	Change
Total	+6	+9	+3
Men	+4	+10	+6
Women	+7	+8	+1
18-34	-1	+6	+7
35-54	+8	+10	+2
55+	+11	+12	+1
Middle class	+12	+12	0
Unskilled workers	-21	-14	+7
North	-12	-12	0
Midlands & Wales	+4	+14	+10
South	+23	+25	+2
Trade Unions	-15	-16	-1
Younger middle class in urban areas	+12	+18	+6

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Legal threat to Civil Service union poll

The ruling moderate group in the biggest Civil Service union threatened yesterday to take legal action against two candidates for the post of deputy general secretary. Mrs Pat Womersley, who split from the National Moderate Group to form the Democratic Moderate Group, and Mr John Macreadie, the militant supporter who is standing for the broad left, accused the ruling moderate group of using "Mafia-style" tactics in its attempt to keep control of the union executive. "The National Moderate Group is so blatantly undemocratic that they have no qualms about breaking rules or taking funds from big business, such as the Aims of Industry", Mrs Womersley said. Mr Macreadie said the moderate group was involved in the worst slanging match he had witnessed for a long time. He said: "It is also well known that they are funded from outside the union". Mrs Marion Chambers, president of the CPSA, said that unless the allegations were withdrawn the union would take legal action against both candidates. She accused Mrs Womersley of being "spiteful" and "not a credible candidate". The National Moderate Group withdrew Mr Barry Reambottom, its candidate for the election, in favour of Mr Terry Ainsworth, the acting deputy general secretary, hours before nominations closed last Friday. Full-time CPSA officials are meant to resign at the age of 55. If elected, Mr Ainsworth, who is aged 53, would have to resign after two years. Mr Ainsworth called the rule a "nonsense" and said he would be seeking his union's permission to "exempt him from the clause". But he admitted that he had given an assurance to his opponents that he would not stand in the election when he took over as acting deputy general secretary after Mr John Ellis became general secretary. Mr Ainsworth, a former ally of Mr Macreadie, was accused of opportunism in order to get elected. He denied the allegations, saying that as an independent he had to get the backing of a political machine. There was speculation that Mr Macreadie would be the main beneficiary in the dispute. He faces only one other candidate from the left, Miss Veronica Bayne, of BL34, which split from Mr Macreadie's group three years ago. Mr Peter Desmond-Thomas, an independent, said that Mr Ainsworth had already asked him to withdraw in favour of his candidature. But neither he nor Mrs Womersley were willing to do so.

Liberals put the brakes on Liverpool budget crisis

Liberal councillors who have taken over the running of Liverpool face a series of critical decisions in the next few days in their attempt to rid the city of its legacy of Militant control and to begin to restore financial stability. Sir Trevor Jones, the Liberal leader, said that by the end of the week it is expected that several Labour-approved schemes totalling £15 million will have been stopped. Liberals claim that the expelled Labour councillors deliberately left them with a financial crisis and that the city faces severe problems for years to come. Over the weekend Sir Trevor held five hours of crisis talks at the council's offices with Mr Philip Kelly, the city treasurer, and Mr Roy Williams, his deputy, in which they studied computer projections of Labour's spending plans. "It was, I am afraid, no better than we expected. The treasurer said that for Labour to do the things they planned would have required a 30 per cent rate rise. They have conned people by saying they could do it with the increase of just 5 per cent they passed."

"There are some hard decisions that will have to be made. On some projects, letters of intent have been signed for which there is no funding available." Liberals estimate that the corporate debts of the council have now reached £800 million and that Labour added to the problem with a further £25 million of last-minute capital spending, chiefly on housing schemes and against the advice of senior council officers. Yesterday Sir Trevor, who spent the weekend putting together an emergency financial package, said that the Liberals intended to switch spending from direct house building into housing co-operatives. He claimed the same number of houses would be built but without consuming so much public money. Funds advanced to co-operatives would be paid back as loans. Other measures to be introduced immediately include the abolition of Labour's rigid catchment area policy for schools to give greater parental choice. The Liberals also hope to persuade a supermarket chain to drop its plan to take over a local school. The Liberals are also reappointing the former chief public relations officer of the council to his job and are urgently looking at other appointments made in the reign of Mr Derek Hatton. Sir Trevor added: "By the end of the week we hope to have stopped a good many of their schemes but we will still be faced with a gigantic task."

Scientists 'using own cash to fund research'

University scientists are subsidizing basic research because of a lack of government funding, a Southampton professor said yesterday. Professor John Brignell, professor of industrial instrumentation, claimed there was often no alternative for those interested in fostering fundamental research. "At the moment, national support for basic research has just about dried up. The government is only interested in funding politically 'sexy' areas such as silicon chips, optical fibres and cellular radio - industry is putting in money but, obviously, is only interested in devices that work", he said. "The problem is that we need to do the basic research in all areas. From where I stand, I can't decide where the research priorities should lie, but someone in Westminster thinks he can." Professor Brignell uses profits from his Winchester consultancy to keep basic research electronics projects going, although Southampton has one of the best records in the country for attracting industrial investment. "I could not say how many scientists are putting in their own money. The problem is that even in a university that is doing relatively well at getting funds, any fundamental research has to be done on the back of something else", he said. An executive council member of the Save British Science campaign, he said it was only because government money was available a decade ago that basic research on optical fibres had proceeded. "I don't believe that could happen today. The emphasis is on everything being industrially relevant; the problem is knowing what will eventually prove to be so", he added.

Merton council by-election

Voters left cold in forgotten outpost

When the Queen visited Pollards Hill Community Centre, south London, and was told it was administered by Merton Borough Council, her reply went instantly into local folklore. "How interesting", she said. "And where is Merton?" Squeezed between the A23 and Mitcham Common, several miles east of Merton and equally far removed from practically anywhere else, the six thousand voters of Pollards Hill are so used to obscurity that they were more amazed than alarmed when their council by-election, staggered towards polling day on Thursday, earned itself a mention to the House of Commons. What angered Dr John Cunningham, Labour's environment spokesman, was that £100,000 had suddenly become available to Merton's ruling Conservatives to give a facelift to a large council housing estate. As the Conservatives have to hang on to a small majority in the ward to keep overall control in the borough, both the Labour and SDP/Alliance candidates are joining in Mr Cunningham's cry of "fool" and accusing the Conservatives of jiggery-pokery. But how is Pollards Hill taking to political stardom? "Football results and the price of veg are the only things they talk about here", Mrs Jacky Wells, who runs a greengrocery store, said. "Didn't even know that there was an election until a chap knocked on the door on behalf of the Tory candidate last week", Mr Ernie Chamberlain, a solicitor's clerk, said. "Then a Labour chap called at 9 o'clock on Sunday morning which, as far as I am concerned, ruled him out of the reckoning."



Mr Jenkins at his home yesterday, looking 'justifiably smug'. (Photograph: John Rogers)

Jenkins's Oxford victory The re-cycled Chancellor

Chancellors like the one who has been putting the final touches to his Budget over the weekend are two-a-penny in history, more ephemeral occupants of an office of no great antiquity. Chancellors of Oxford University are figures of a more durable splendour: there have been only eight this century, and the job brings with it a uniform of silk brocade and gold thread though no further emolument, and very little in the way of formal duties. The 193 previous Oxford Chancellors include two saints and one ruler (Oliver Cromwell), while the ranks of Chancellors of the Exchequer include men of only relatively common mould. Roy Jenkins, meditating his triumph in the weekend's election for the Oxford Chancellorship at his home under the edge of the Chilterns yesterday, is one of the few who have Chancellered it in both categories. "It is a tremendous honour", he declared, reciting the phrases of his election day interviews with a thrifty professionalism. He rejected the idea that there might be any serious conflict between his intended role as trustee for the whole of the nation's higher education system and his activities as a leading member of the SDP. "I think broadly speaking the policies and outlook of the party I represent march fairly closely alongside those of the university. There's rather a happy coincidence."

Mr Jenkins looked justifiably smug as he sat by a log fire in his study while the red phone and the grey phone on his desk rang alternately with messages of congratulation. He had, after all, pulled off the classic Alliance trick of waltzing through an electoral opening created by a split in the vote. There was special savour in the fact that the split was between two Tories - Lord Blake and Edward Heath, worthily squeezed into third place. The unexpectedly high vote for Lord Blake suggests that a substantial proportion of the privileged electorate of paid-up Masters of Arts of the University were irritated by the strong party political flavour that had emerged in the campaign. "Lord Blake happens to be a man for whom I have a very high regard", said Mr Jenkins, hastening to show a victor's magnanimity. "As indeed I have for Edward Heath - a massive figure in British politics, for whom I have a combination of very high regard and some considerable affection."

Ten minute puzzle tie puts two in final

By John Grant, Crossword Editor There was a tie for first place at the Scottish regional final of *The Times* Collins Dictionary Crossword Championship at the Grosvenor Hotel, Glasgow, yesterday. Mr Michael MacDonald-Cooper, who is aged 45 and lives at Inchture, Perthshire, and Mr Grant Walker, aged 48, from Alderley Edge, Cheshire, a university lecturer in mathematics at Manchester, both solved the four puzzles in an average of just over ten minutes each. Both are previous national finalists. Mr MacDonald-Cooper became the Scottish champion when he finished the tie-breaker, a difficult puzzle, in 10 minutes. Both qualify for this year's national final in London on September 6. Mr L.E. Ellis, the Rector of Edinburgh Academy, who is aged 54, came third. The prize for the best game by the Oxford team was won by James Howell while the Cambridge prize went to Graham Burgess. Individual results were (Oxford names first): Peter Wells (Jesus College) defeated David Watts (Sidney Sussex); James Howell (Jesus) defeated David Lawson (Trinity); Neil Dickenson (Herford) drew with David Singh (Queen's); Martin Hazleton (St Anne's) drew with Andrew Harley (Selwyn); Dr William Gnam (Balliol) defeated Robert Cannings (Trinity); Stephen Walker (Oriel) lost to Graham Burgess (Downing); Neil Crabb (St Edmund Hall) defeated Mark Thornton (Sidney Sussex); Sarah Riley (St Hughs) lost to Alison Franklin (Downing).

Whatever designs he may have on the university's archaic and cherished voting system, he shows no disinclination towards the ceremonial aspects of his role. Shuffling around in brocade "is not the sort of thing one would want to do every week, but I don't mind it once in a while."

Mr Jenkins plans to nurse his new constituency as energetically as he nurses Glasgow, Hillhead. With pressure for a Scottish assembly so strong among Labour ranks, Mr Dewar is aware that anything but an election victory will pose difficult strains and stresses for him and the party leadership. Mr Dewar finds himself with a remarkably united party. The disruptive influence of Militant and the far left within Labour ranks has virtually vanished. The only internal irritation among Scottish Labour supporters appears to be with the party south of the border.

Oxford wins university chess match

Oxford University won the annual chess match against Cambridge at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, on Saturday. The score was five points to three (Our Chess Correspondent writes). Cambridge now leads the series by 45 wins to 43 with 17 drawn matches since the annual competition began in 1873. Oxford University has won the last seven matches.

The prize for the best game by the Oxford team was won by James Howell while the Cambridge prize went to Graham Burgess.

Discussion at the conference, behind closed doors, was banned to all whites. The Commission for Racial Equality said later that such action was legal. A paper accepted by the delegates described the police as "a force of intimidation on council housing estates". It called for "an end to their dubious presence in schools". It also pledged support for black teachers with "the instant dismissal of any staff found guilty of racist practice or abuse".

Labour to fight for Scots assembly

By Richard Evans Political Correspondent

A confident Scottish Labour Party left Perth last night after its annual conference had set in motion manifesto plans for the first Scottish assembly elections. But while talk of the long dream of assembly, complete with tax-raising powers, was on every one's lips over the weekend, delegates and MPs went home having barely mentioned in public, let alone discussed, how they would cope with the unmentionable: the "Domesday scenario". That phrase is used to describe what increasingly looks like the outcome of the next general election: an increased Labour majority in Scotland but a Conservative majority in the Commons. After Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, on Friday ridiculed the idea of a tax-raising assembly, there have been mutterings in Labour ranks involving disruptive action inside and outside parliament in an attempt to force the Government into setting up an such an assembly.

Only Mr Dennis Canavan, Labour MP for Falkirk West, dared mention the possibility of Labour not winning the next election and insisted the party should make plans for forcing a Scottish assembly if it failed to obtain an outright majority. He told a fringe meeting it was "sheer arrogance, complacency and irresponsible of our party to assume that we are necessarily going to have an overall majority in the House of Commons after the next election."

His comments came after a MORI poll for *The Scotsman* which showed that 50 per cent of Scottish voters favour the setting up of an assembly with substantial powers and 52 per cent of Conservative voters support such a plan. Mr Donald Dewar, the shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, spoke impressively of capturing 50 per cent of the vote and 50 seats in the election. Labour's existing strength is 51 out of 72 Scottish constituencies.

Mr Dewar said last night: "It is now clear with the dozen or so seats which we have genuine hopes of winning could become very important."

With pressure for a Scottish assembly so strong among Labour ranks, Mr Dewar is aware that anything but an election victory will pose difficult strains and stresses for him and the party leadership. Mr Dewar finds himself with a remarkably united party. The disruptive influence of Militant and the far left within Labour ranks has virtually vanished. The only internal irritation among Scottish Labour supporters appears to be with the party south of the border.

Clamp on black sections

By Philip Webster Chief Political Correspondent

Labour's black parliamentary candidates were warned yesterday that their plans to set up a black section in the parliamentary party when they become MPs will be stamped on by the leadership. Despite being declared unconstitutional, the left wing black sections campaign held its fourth annual conference in Nottingham at the weekend. Eight black prospective candidates, including some in winnable seats, were present. But Mr Bryan Gould, Labour's campaign coordinator, made clear yesterday that a parliamentary black section would not be allowed. The conference debated a black manifesto opposing immigration restrictions, calling for compensation "for those who suffer from not being allowed in" and demanding the instant dismissal of "racist immigration officers".

Discussion at the conference, behind closed doors, was banned to all whites. The Commission for Racial Equality said later that such action was legal. A paper accepted by the delegates described the police as "a force of intimidation on council housing estates". It called for "an end to their dubious presence in schools". It also pledged support for black teachers with "the instant dismissal of any staff found guilty of racist practice or abuse".

THE SPECIAL REPORT ON MANAGEMENT BUY-OUTS APPEARS ON PAGE 29

A million pupils set to miss school as strike action bites

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

More than a million pupils in England and Wales are expected to be sent home at midday today when nearly 90,000 teachers stage the fourth in their current series of half-day strikes.

Most schools in Greater London will be closed. Teachers belonging to the two biggest unions will be taking part in a march and two joint rallies.

They will be addressed by Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, and Mr Fred Smith, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers.

Other areas affected today are: Shropshire, Gloucestershire, Isle of Wight, Suffolk, Norfolk, Swansea, Leicester, Huddersfield and Newcastle upon Tyne. At least 1,000 secondary schools are likely to be affected as well as up to 4,000 primary schools.

The half-day strikes, in protest against the Government's decision to impose its own pay-and-conditions deal, will continue in other parts of

England and Wales until Thursday.

A new round of selective strikes begins a week today and continues until the end of this term. Further action is likely to be ratified by the annual conferences of the NUT and the NAS/UNT during the Easter holidays.

The third biggest union, the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, will announce the result of its strike ballot tomorrow. Most of its 88,000 members in state schools are expected to stage a half-day strike a week later.

Local education authorities in England and Wales are to try to head-off the Government's plan to impose a national curriculum on all state schools.

The authorities are planning to set up a national advisory body which they hope a government minister will chair and which would include parents and teachers' representatives.

merely suggest guidelines about what children should be taught.

Mr Ivor Widdison, a spokesman for the authorities, said yesterday: "We have a deep-seated dislike of detailed prescription from a national level."

"We think the sort of body we are suggesting would be safer than putting all the power and influence over the curriculum in the hands of the government of the day."

Mr Giles Radice, the Labour Party spokesman on education, said yesterday that the Government's proposed city technology colleges were "set to be a miserable flop."

He said the Government had admitted approaching 1,800 companies in an attempt to drive financial support for the colleges, but only a handful had shown any interest.

In a letter to Mr Baker, Mr Radice described the response as "abysmal".

Mr Alistair Graham, director of the Industrial Society, called on the Government to admit that its attempt to set up the colleges had failed.

Call for reform of child custody law

By Frances Gibb

The law on child custody should be overhauled and unified into one single code, the Law Society's family law committee says today.

The present law is unnecessarily complicated, inconsistent and difficult to understand, the committee says in its response to the Law Commission's review of custody of children.

There are some 12 different statutes under which orders for custody and access can be made and they are dealt with by three different courts. The new code should aim at safeguarding the interests of the child and encouraging agreement between parents on the breakdown of the marriage, sometimes with the help of a conciliator.

Parents' arrangements for the children should be accepted by the court unless there is obvious cause for concern and children's appointments before a judge should be abolished. When parents cannot agree, the committee recommends the case be referred to a senior

court welfare officer with the training and experience to make proposals. The parents should meet an independent conciliator.

The Law Commission proposals to replace the present concept of custody and access with one of "shared care" is criticized by the Family Law Bar Association in its response to the review.

The association says that instead of encouraging co-operation between parents, the proposals could present more opportunities for conflict.

It calls instead for better training for judges in how to make difficult decisions on custody and access.

The association also calls for maximum access to the courts for those with a genuine interest in the future of the child. In particular, in the light of the *Jasmine Beckford* case, it says foster parents should have access to the courts when they feel that returning a child to its natural family would not be in the child's interests.

Plea for married priests

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Support for the abolition of compulsory celibacy for priests is growing in the Roman Catholic church in Britain, according to the Movement for the Ordination of Married Men.

Its latest bulletin reports a sharp climb in its membership in the past four years, from 120 in 1982 to 450 last month. Nearly 200 are priests.

Father Michael Gaine, chairman of the movement, said there was a continuing decline in the number of priests throughout the world.

"To make suitable married men eligible for the priesthood would go some way to solving these growing problems," he said in a statement accompanying the movement's annual report.

The report emphasizes that several former Anglican clergy who are married have applied to be ordained as Roman Catholic priests in England, and some of their applications have been forwarded to the Vatican for approval.

It also records continuing discussion throughout the world about the shortage of clergy, and of growing interest in alternative measures to cope with it. But Father Gaine insisted that the case for ordaining married men rested primarily on theological and historical grounds and not just the shortage of clergy.

As in most other denominations the decline in manpower arises from the disparity between levels of retirement and recruitment, because of the higher rate of recruitment 40 or 50 years ago.

There is now a steady increase in candidates offering themselves for training as Roman Catholic priests in England and Wales.

Closure threat to monastery

One of Britain's most famous monasteries is threatened with closure because of a shortage of monks.

Only nine monks now serve at Cadey Island off Teby in Dyfed, running a farm, post office, dairy, and making chocolate and perfume.

At least 11 more are needed and the Cistercian Order has recruited a nurse, some cooks, guest-house staff and a chocolate maker to help them.

The average age of the monks is 64. Twenty-four young men inquired last year about the cloistered life after a recruitment drive but no one joined the order.

The monks are appealing to their Abbot General to allow them to remain on the island and have asked him to take their appeal to Rome when he meets the Pope later this year.

Their spokesman, Father Robert, said: "We are determined to try to keep it going and this year is very important for us. We feel that God is telling us to be very patient."

Outspoken judge upsets law students

The Lord Chancellor is expected to receive a complaint this week about Judge Argyle, QC, over remarks he is reported to have made in a speech on Friday, including an attack on the Government's law and order policy (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

Judge Argyle, aged 72, apparently upset some students in an address at Trent Polytechnic which he thought was unreported but which was recorded. One student plans to make an official complaint.

According to *The Observer* yesterday the judge abandoned the traditional political neutrality adopted on the bench and attacked the Government for failing to tackle law and order.

"Quite simply, law and order does not exist in this country at the moment. The criminals are walking all over us," the judge is reported as saying.

He apparently also suggested that judges should have discretion to impose the death sentence on anyone convicted of an offence carrying a sentence of more than 15 years; that there could be as many as five million illegal immigrants in this country; and that prison no longer deterred criminals as they only served a small part of their sentence.

Judge Argyle has been one of the most controversial judges since 1971 when he sat on the "Oz" trial of the underground newspaper.

Fans jailed for battle with police

Nine football supporters were sent to prison yesterday and six others fined £300 each, after a clash in which bottles and glasses were thrown at police.

Seven officers were hurt, none seriously, as they tried to separate a crowd of about 300 rival fans at Chesterfield, Derbyshire, on Saturday.

The trouble was between supporters of Coventry, returning home after losing to Sheffield Wednesday, and local fans who had seen their team lose to Swindon Town.

Seven fans were each sentenced to 21 days' imprisonment, one received 42 days, and another 28 days, for public order offences.

Cases against three fans were adjourned, and another two were remanded in custody.

But the horrors and heroism of 1982 have been carefully consigned to the history books, and life has resumed with new impetus.

The fledgling and delicate tourist industry, upon which the islands' development corporation pins many hopes, is

Battlefield tours go to the Falklands

The fifth anniversary of the Argentine invasion of the Falklands is less than three weeks away. In the islands the memories remain as vivid as the red of the poppy wreaths which decorate the memorials and graves all year around.

But the horrors and heroism of 1982 have been carefully consigned to the history books, and life has resumed with new impetus.

The fledgling and delicate tourist industry, upon which the islands' development corporation pins many hopes, is

pragmatically welcoming battlefield tourists.

A Royal Engineers bomb disposal expert, holding up examples of deadly mines and ordnance, will impress on holidaymakers that not all reminders of 1982 are as benign as stone memorials.

The holidays are organized by Major and Mrs Holt's Battlefield Tours, of Sandwich, Kent. Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Martin, one of the company's senior leaders, emphasizes that the Falklands project is the most ambitious of his company's tours, most of

which involve coach trips to Europe's battlefields.

"With all our tours we show the greatest respect but, in the case of the Falklands, memories are still strong and emotions raw," the colonel said.

Local opinion appears to approve of the enterprise, even if it believes that battlefield tourism is on the unconventional fringe of the economic development effort.

Mr Desmond King, the owner and manager of the Upland Goose Hotel, said: "I

don't think there is anything wrong with it at all. The more people who get to know the Falklands, the better. And of course we need the business."

Mr David Morgan, a Welshman who recently became the first manager of the local tourist board, understands the satisfaction that such visits can bring.

"I have visited Fitzroy and Sapper Hill, for example," Mr Morgan said, "and the memorials there have been tastefully built. As a Welshman, it is especially moving."

Spectrum, page 10



Eric Whitehead, aged 61, is enjoying a new career as a shepherd after he was made redundant following 20 years as a factory worker. He tends sheep with his dog Drift on farmland around his home at Barnby Moor, Retford, Nottinghamshire and receives a £40-a-week grant from the Manpower Services Commission. (Photograph: Robert Bathbone).

Danger of the sleepy pilots

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Fears that passengers' lives may be being put at risk by over-tired pilots are leading to changes on the flight decks of long-range flights.

The Civil Aviation Authority is drawing up a complex set of rules which will mean a change in duty rosters. This comes after research by scientists at the Institute of Aviation Medicine at Farnborough into the new generation of jets capable of flying for up to 16 hours with just two pilots on board.

At the moment long-range aircraft carry a crew of three, two pilots and an engineer.

This enables one of them to leave the flight deck while the aircraft is flown by the other pilot and his actions are monitored by the engineer.

With only two crew members this would be impossible, so the CAA at first suggested that no flight lasting longer

than eight hours should be operated with two crew members only.

Beyond that a third pilot would be required, and for really long flights two complete crews would be needed.

Research has shown that the problem of sleep disturbance and of ensuring maximum efficiency in very long flights is far more complicated than had been thought.

Dozens of military and civilian pilots have been monitored as they fly to distant spots around the world.

They are then allowed to sleep at Farnborough while technicians attached to their heads show exactly what level of sleep they manage to achieve.

The IAM has submitted a series of calculations to the Board which, if implemented, will mean that airlines will have to take into account

several factors before rostering a pilot for duty.

The British Airline Pilots' Association is concerned that unless strict rules are applied airlines may try to force their pilots to fly longer than is really safe.

The International Federation of Airline Pilots' Associations is to discuss the whole problem next month to try to reach international agreement.

"We would have been happier if there were always three pilots on the flight deck", the federation said.

"But we have to admit that we have lost that battle. Now we want to ensure that whatever compromise is reached does not endanger safety."

The Civil Aviation Authority will today be asked to grant up to 16 new licenses for scheduled routes throughout Europe.

Stalker a 'victim of jealousy'

By Ian Smith

The removal of Mr John Stalker from a sensitive investigation into policing in Northern Ireland could have been the result of career jealousy by his colleagues.

Allegations that he might have been the target of a group of senior officers in the Greater Manchester force who resented his rapid rise through the ranks are likely to be made at court proceedings now being considered.

Mr Stalker retired from Britain's largest provincial police force last week.

If the claims claims that he was the victim of jealousy are substantiated, it will end speculation that either M15, Northern Ireland politicians, or high-ranking RUC officers engineered his demise.

The case in which the revelations might be made involves his former friend Mr Kevin Taylor, who has been under investigation, though never interviewed or charged.

Mr Stalker was a high-flyer, under consideration by the Home Office as a future Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police or eventual Chief Inspector of Constabulary.

On the eve of starting his new job as general manager of Mersey Television Company, the producers of *Brookside*, Mr Stalker said yesterday that he had strong suspicions and some evidence to support his suspicions of why he was targeted.

But he said he could make no further comment because of the case being brought by Mr Taylor against the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, Mr James Anderson.

As a first move towards their goal of obtaining a High Court hearing, legal representatives have issued summonses on behalf of Mr Taylor's company Rangelark Ltd against Mr Anderson, and other officers.

The summonses allege they conspired to pervert the course of justice.

Portfolio Gold Winner to invest part of share

Five readers receive £1,600 as their share of the weekly £8,000 Portfolio Gold dividend.

Mr Tony Metcalfe, aged 67, a retired sales administration manager from Leyburn, North Yorkshire, plans to invest £1,000 of his winnings in a portfolio of his own.

Mr Metcalfe, a reader of *The Times* for more than 20 years, said: "I'm a regular investor on the Stock Exchange. I have three children who will get a couple of hundred pounds each and the remaining £1,000 will go into the kitty for investing."

Dr Alison Broadhurst, a safety consultant, of Christchurch, Dorset, plans to brighten her garden, "making it even more beautiful". Third reader to receive £1,600 is Mrs Peggy Flew, of Maidenhead, Berkshire, who has been a *Times* reader for nearly thirty years. She had no idea yet how she would spend her money.

Mr David Mathews, aged 45, a ship broker of Stowmarket, Suffolk, who is married with one daughter, said: "I am unemployed at the moment, so the money will be very useful."

The fifth winner was Mrs F. Jarvis, of Great Pimstead, Norwich.

There was no winner of Saturday's daily prize of £4,000 - so today's dividend is increased to £8,000.

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

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Dr Broadhurst, who has plans for her garden.

Rivals battle to keep home fires burning

Keeping the home fires burning in a picturesque Yorkshire Dales village has led to a court case between British Gas and British Coal.

It began when British Gas asked residents in Thornton Dale, North Yorkshire, if they wanted to be connected to mains gas. When officials of the Solid Fuel Advisory Service heard about it, they launched a counter-attack to try to keep their customers.

The advisory service said in a leaflet that a switch to gas would mean gardens and paths being dug up, the payment of £250 connection charges and a possibility of condemnation.

British Gas North East claimed the leaflet was "misleading". An official said the people of Thornton Dale deserved to be told that gas is both the cheapest and most popular fuel.

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Drug crisis forces up serious crime rate

By Stewart Tessler, Crime Reporter

A steady rise in serious crime and a slump in the arrest and clearance rates will be revealed in figures to be released by the Home Office and Scotland Yard today.

In London, senior officers point to unemployment and the spread of drugs as causes of the problem.

The figures offer little comfort to the Government despite its position as the party of law and order. Last night, Mr Gerald Kaufman, Labour spokesman on home affairs, gave warning that the Government faces tough criticism. He accused the Prime Minister of releasing the figures early, in the hope that they would be lost in pre-Budget speculation.

The London figures offer little immediate comfort for Sir Kenneth Newman, retiring this summer as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

The number of offences in the capital rose to 768,000, or five per cent on the 1985 total.

LONDON CRIME FIGURES 1986

Violence against the person	20,308	+0.3
Sex offences	3,824	+7
Robbery	10,151	+1
Burglary	157,289	+1.7
Theft	413,288	+7
Fraud and forgery	33,687	-8
Control Damage	118,919	+4
Others	3,032	-10

Capital's beat bobbies being kept off streets

By Our Crime Reporter

Demands on the police in London have become so great that last year only one uniformed officer patrolled the streets of the capital each day for every 850 residents.

Scotland Yard said it could put fewer than a thousand uniformed officers from a total of 27,000 on the streets for traditional police work each day because of training requirements, public order demands such as the News International dispute at Wapping, new legislation such as the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, and emergencies.

The police-resident ratio does not include the hundreds of thousands of people who commute into London each day or visitors.

Senior officers set the difficulties facing the London force against the 1986 crime statistics which are scheduled to be published today and which show a significant rise in almost every category of crime: The number of cases

but according to Whitehall sources the figure for the whole of England and Wales, including London, will show a seven per cent rise.

That means that last year more than 3.8 million serious offences were recorded.

The clearance rate in London fell from 18 to 16 per cent. The Home Office figures are understood to show a drop from 35 per cent in 1985 to 31.6 per cent last year, as the average for all 43 forces in England and Wales.

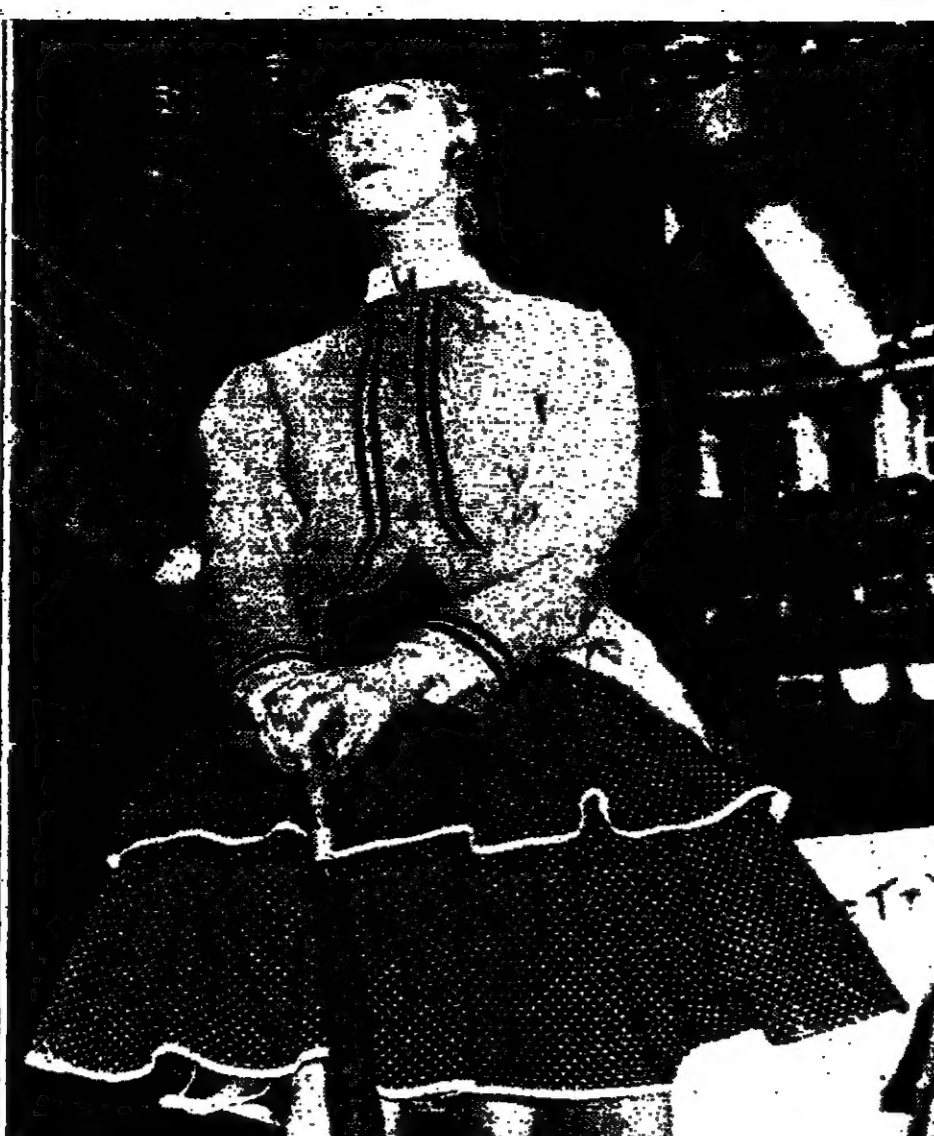
Arrests in London last year fell by 6 per cent to 103,084.

Burglaries of London homes rose by six per cent last year but they were still below the figure for 1984. Domestic burglaries nationally have gone up by 10 per cent in the same two-year period although the increase last year was only 3.2 per cent.

Muggings rose by 14 per cent to 10,289 offences and recorded rapes rose from 570 to 826, an increase of nearly 50 per cent.

The London force has had to cope with special London responsibilities, new legislation, public order problems and public demands not connected to crime.

It also has had to face a trebling of recorded crime in the past 20 years while the manpower has only increased by 40 per cent.



A short crinoline designed by Betty Jackson is just one of the skirts dominating the British Designer Show which attracted record attendance at Olympia at the weekend and runs until tomorrow night. Such crinolines, with hemlines well above the knee, puffed fabric and mini A-line skirts, are making this a season for the leggy (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Lawyers and computers: 1

Revolution goes to court as desk-top terminals move in

Lawyers and the courts are poised for a computer revolution. Desk-top terminals are moving in among wigs, gowns and bundles tied with tape and the Government has embarked on a 10-year programme for computerizing the running of courts.

Computers are also moving in to the courtroom. The Government is legislating so evidence can be taken by live video link in child sexual abuse cases and where witnesses are abroad; the Bar has even proposed that such links be used in remand hearings, to avoid prisoners having to be brought to court.

In the civil courts, a key proposal of the Lord Chancellor's 10-year computerization strategy is a centralized Claims Registry to handle routine processing of summonses, such as debt recovery, one of the biggest areas of civil work.

County courts would be equipped with computer terminals so they could link directly with one of three central data bases. Those will handle record-keeping, receipts and payments.

At Staines County Court, an experiment is under way for computerized debt recovery procedures and there are other pilot projects covering bailiffs' warrant control, suitors' cash payments, divorce casework and district registry casework.

In the first of two articles on lawyers and computers, Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent, looks at how computers and new technology are moving into the courts.

In the Crown Court there is an experiment in four centres — the Inner London sessions, Nottingham, Leicester and Derby — covering the administration of the courts' casework, the listing of cases and payment of lawyers' fees.

If successful, independent management consultants have recommended a computer network covering all 70 Crown Court centres.

Computers are similarly moving into magistrates' courts, mainly to help with accounting but increasingly, in places such as Ealing and Brentford, in west London, to extend administrative help.

The first experiments have taken place for electronic links between courts and their users — lawyers, police, prison and probation staff — and the results are being examined to see if they could be widened.

One, run by British Telecom's property and law services division and Prestel, involved four London courts. It looked at the benefits of sending to the profession up-to-the-minute information on listing of cases.

The second trial, based on three Birmingham courts, in-

involved the use of electronic mail. Lawyers were sent advance details of their expected cases. The information was updated as lists were changed.

Despite such experiments, the Government is not going far enough in committing itself to using computers and technology in the courts, lawyers say. Mr Henry Brooke, QC, chairman last year of the Senate computer committee, says there has been "little positive progress" towards identifying how technology could make the criminal justice system more efficient.

Lawyers are keen to have two-way communications so they can "talk" to the courts as well as receiving information.

Above all, the Bar and the Law Society are pressing for a computer to assist courts in monitoring caseloads and striking out dormant cases.

Even if government funds are restricted, Mr Brooke says the way forward should be some low-cost pilot projects to test computerized case control. With the Government likely to embark on sweeping reforms to the civil courts in the next two years, the time is now ripe, Mr Brooke says.

Tomorrow: lawyers' offices.

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MIDLAND MORTGAGES

Tunnel proposal delays road work

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

There is growing concern about the long delay of the Department of Transport in reaching a decision on the upgrading of a section of North Circular Road at Ealing, west London.

It is nearly two years since the department received the report of the inspector after a public inquiry on the upgrading of the road between Pope's Lane and Western Avenue.

There is still no indication that a decision is imminent. The department talks of complex issues raised by the inspector's report as causing the delay, but it is believed that the key issue is whether a stretch of the road should be put in a tunnel, which would be much more expensive than carrying it along the surface.

Major roadworks until next Monday.

London and South-east

M2 Kent Junction 4 (Gillingham) resurfacing, nearside lane closed on eastbound carriageway; contraflow and lane closures continue between junctions 5 and 7 (Sittingbourne/Brealey corner, near Faversham).

M20 Kent Roadworks continue on the London-bound carriageway approaching the junction with the M26, 50mph speed restriction.

A1 (M) Hertfordshire: Continuing roadworks at the Hatfield tunnel and at junction 7 (near Stevenage) with off-peak lane closures.

M1 Northamptonshire: Northbound lane closure between junction 16 (Northampton) and Watford gap services outside peak hours.

M275 Hampshire: Flyover construction between junction with M27 and Rudmore roundabout, Portsmouth.

M27 Hampshire: Preparatory work for contraflow just west of Eastleigh.

M40 Thames Valley junction 6 (Watlington): Lane closures in both directions.

Midlands

M5 Hereford and Worcester: One lane open southbound and two northbound between junctions 5 and 6 (Droitwich/Worcester north). Also southbound entry slip at junction 5 and southbound exit slip at junction 6 are closed.

M5 West Midlands: Lane restrictions and some overnight carriageway closures between junctions 4 and 8 (Bromsgrove/M50 South Wales).

North

M63 Barton Bridge, Greater Manchester: Widening scheme. Lane restrictions and slip road closures between junctions 1 and 7 (Eccles interchange/A56 Stretford).

A1(M) Tyne and Wear: Bridge repairs. Lane closures with signposted diversions.

A66(M) Co Durham: Replacement of bridge joints on Darlington spur. Contraflow.

M6 Cumbria: Contraflow between junctions 41 and 42 (Wigton/Carlisle).

M6 Lancashire between junctions 31 and 32 (Preston/A6): Major roadworks.

M66 Greater Manchester: Resurfacing between junctions 2 and 4 with contraflow. (Bury/M62)

Wales and West

M5 Avon/Somerset/Devon: Lane closures continue north and southbound between junctions 21 (Bristol South) and 29 (Honiton).

Scotland

M8 between junctions 26 and 31 (Renfrew/Paisley): Barrier inspections. Westbound outside and middle lanes closed.

Information compiled and supplied by AA Roadwatch.

WORLD SUMMARY

Paris protest at nationality code

Paris — More than 10,000 people marched through the streets of the French capital yesterday to protest against the Government's proposed reforms to the French nationality code (Susan MacDonald writes).

There were more than 200 organizations represented in the demonstration, which was arranged by the French anti-racist group, SOS Racisme. Among those taking part were leaders of the Socialist Party and the Socialist and Communist-led trade unions.

The Bill abolishes the automatic right to French citizenship of children born in France to non-French nationals and tightens the nationality regulations relating to marriages. But after a statement by M. Albin Chalandon, Minister of Justice, it looks as if it will be redrafted and not presented to Parliament in the spring session.

Fight outside US base

Madrid (Reuter) — Police fought with anti-American protesters on the outskirts of Torrejón air base yesterday, after thousands of Spaniards marched there demanding an end to the US military presence in Spain.

Only hours before Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, was due to arrive for an official visit, the marchers trekked 14 miles from Madrid behind a samba band and banners reading "Nato No, Neutralidad Yes, Bases Out".

Witnesses said that as the rally broke up peacefully, small groups of demonstrators gathered outside the base perimeter fence and began hurling stones at police, who replied with smoke bombs, rubber bullets and baton charges.

Attack on Aids rape memorial sentence

Tokyo (AP) — North Korea yesterday accused Britain of trying to arouse "anti-communist hysteria" by establishing a memorial to the 1,000 British soldiers killed in the Korean War.

The Queen unveiled the memorial to the British members of the UN force at St Paul's Cathedral last Wednesday.

Pyeongyang's *Rodong Shinmun* newspaper, in a report carried by the Korean News Agency, described the British soldiers in the conflict as "mercenaries... who committed unpardonable atrocities, murdering the Korean people."

Los Angeles (APF) — An Aids victim has been jailed for 10 years here for raping a three-year-old girl, despite pleas for leniency on the grounds that he would die.

The child has not contracted the disease from her assailant, Luis Gillespie, who adopted her illegally in Ecuador.

● KOCHI, Japan: A Japanese housewife infected with Aids has given birth, the first such case in the country, despite advice by doctors that she should have an abortion (Reuter reports). A local official said it would be weeks before it was known if the baby was infected.

Gangsters get life

Tokyo — Five gangsters were sentenced to life imprisonment over the weekend for the assassination of three leaders of Japan's biggest criminal syndicate (David Watts writes).

The killing of Masahiko Takenaka and two of his associates of the Yamaguchi-gumi more than two years ago provoked the gangster war which has been fought fitfully throughout western Japan ever since, ending in a truce only last month after 25 other gangsters had been killed and 70 injured in 300 incidents.

The five men sentenced were all associated with a rival gang and led by Hiroshi Ishikawa. Three other gangsters got 10-year terms for being lookouts when Takenaka was shot.

Martial law threat

Dhaka — A top government leader and former Bangladesh Army general yesterday threatened the imposition of martial law if civil agitation continued against the Government of President Ershad (Ahmed Fazl writes).

Major-General Mahmud Hasan, Secretary-General of the ruling Jatiyo Party, told Parliament that military rule could come again if unrest spread and the opposition parties tried to seize power by violence. He accused the opposition of spreading anarchy.

Crusade for beer

Bonn — The West German Government has urged publicans not to sell "cheapest" beer from other EEC countries, after the European Court ruling that banning them violates Community trade rules.

Herr Wolfgang von Gerdern, state secretary in the Agriculture Ministry, said in an interview published yesterday: "I appeal urgently to publicans not to serve cheap beer that does not comply with our pure beer law. Customers should also insist on getting only pure German beer."

Leading article, page 13

President admits he was wrong

Reagan exonerates top officials

From Christopher Thomas Washington

President Reagan, embarking on a new strategy for controlling the political damage of the Iran arms scandal, admitted for the first time at the weekend: "I was wrong." He said he should have listened to the advice of Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary.

In his weekly radio address, delivered from Camp David, he said that both Cabinet secretaries had strongly advised him not to pursue the initiative, but he rejected their advice because he thought the sale was worth the risk. "As we now know, it turned out they were right and I was wrong," he declared.

The assertion comes in the wake of angry complaints from Mr Shultz and Mr Weinberger about criticisms of them in the report of the Tower Commission, which investigated the arms sales. Both issued statements expressing gratitude to Mr Reagan, whose remarks clearly demonstrate that he has no intention of replacing either of them.

White House advisers hope that the unequivocal personal admission of error will mark an upturn in the President's political fortunes, and help him to focus attention on the two key issues of his remaining time in the White House, arms control and the budget deficit.

However, in private the President is said still to believe that the Iran arms strategy was not in wrong principle. Some of his friends believe he would even do it again if he thought there was a chance of getting the American hostages out of Lebanon.



Mr Jack Kemp taking a quizzical look at Mr Donald Rumsfeld, a would-be fellow runner in the forthcoming US presidential race, before they addressed the North-East Republican Leadership Conference in Nashua, New Hampshire, at the weekend.

Former Senator Paul Laxalt, a personal friend, said: "I think he privately still holds to his initial conviction that the policy was well worth it." Mr Laxalt and other friends of Mr Reagan, in unusually frank assessments of the President's

state of mind as he battles through his greatest political crisis, paint a picture of a demoralized man who has seen his unique popularity and one of the most successful presidencies in modern times crumble before his eyes.

Khashoggi defends Irangate role

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

The only reason Mr Adnan Khashoggi became involved in the Irangate arms deal was "a desire to contribute to peace in the Middle East", the prominent Arab businessman claimed in an interview published in a Spanish newspaper yesterday.

He also claimed that he lost

\$10 million on the deal. Interviewed in Monte Carlo by a reporter from the independent Madrid daily, *El País*, Mr Khashoggi also denied that he is bankrupt.

He laid the blame for his present financial difficulties on losses of \$500 million (£330 million) sustained by his Triad

America Company in property operations, adding: "I never pretended to be the richest man in the world, and I'm not ruined now. The truth lies somewhere in between."

Mr Khashoggi did admit he advanced cash for the purchase of arms to be shipped to Iran via Israel.

Israel gives pledge to stop forging British passports

By Nicholas Beeston

Britain has received assurances from Israel that it will stop forging British passports for use by Mossad secret service agents abroad.

The secret Israeli operation was uncovered last summer when eight forged passports, and documents linking them with Israel, were discovered by chance in a telephone booth in West Germany and handed in to the British Embassy.

According to *The Sunday Times*, which disclosed the story yesterday, the blank passports were found to be high quality forgeries, although it was not clear where the Israeli agents intended to use them.

In October the Israeli Ambassador in London, Mr Yehuda Avner, was severely rebuked by the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Mr Timothy Renton.

"Mr Renton delivered a strong protest and demanded assurances from the Israelis that they would halt their forgery operation," a source at the Foreign Office said yesterday.

The Foreign Office followed up the meeting with several further demands until Israel eventually provided the necessary assurances that it would stop using British forgeries. A spokesman at the Foreign Office said the Government now regarded the matter as closed.

Although the Israeli Embassy in London refused to comment, the Israeli spy-master, Mr Rafi Eitan, who says his superiors knew he was running the Jonathan Pollard espionage operation in the US, yesterday denied press reports that he had talked about the scandal with politicians and warned them that he would not be the Government's scapegoat (Reuter reports).

comment, Arab sources predicted that the revelation could endanger British citizens working in or visiting certain areas of the Middle East.

"Now that it has been made public that Mossad agents could be travelling on British passports, people will become

more suspicious of Britons," said one Arab diplomat. "You will be handing terrorist groups, who want to take British hostages, the perfect alibi on a golden platter."

Foreign Office sources said that there was already concern for the safety of Britons living in some Arab countries, especially Lebanon, but emphasized that "there is no evidence to suggest that this latest episode will make matters any worse."

Under the Labour Government of Mr James Callaghan, Britain complained to Israel over the use of a forged British passport by a female Mossad agent, who entered Beirut and murdered a Palestinian leader suspected of masterminding the Munich Olympic Games massacre.

In Lebanon, one of the three missing Britons, Mr Alec Collett, a journalist, aged 64, was thought to have been kidnapped by Palestinian guerrillas in March 1985 because they suspected that he had travelled to Israel. His family in Britain believe he was killed or died in captivity.

Wage freeze provokes unrest in Yugoslavia

From Desza Trevisan, Belgrade

The Yugoslav Government's attempt to impose a wage freeze on all loss-making enterprises has triggered off a wave of strikes in Croatia, where union leaders are demanding urgent talks to prevent widespread labour unrest.

The Federal Government recently passed legislation which links pay to productivity and penalizes enterprises that increased wages in 1986. The move has led to considerable confusion and provoked a number of strikes. Since the beginning of the month, when the new law came into force, 7,000 workers from 28 enterprises, some of them successful exporters, have been on strike.

The unions in the Croatian republic emphasize that the Government, while imposing partial wage restrictions, has allowed steep price rises for staple foods, which have increased the cost of living by 7 per cent a month. While not challenging the legislation as such, the unions demand that the Government should control food prices.

The average Yugoslav family spends 60 per cent of its £100 monthly income on food, which is already more expensive than in many West European countries.

Yugoslavia's inflation rate last year was almost 90 per cent and many enterprises, in anticipation of the Government's wage restrictions, hurried to keep the peace with their employees by increasing salaries above the rate of inflation. But this merely stoked up the inflationary fires.

If present trends were to continue, Yugoslav inflation this year could well go over 100 per cent.

For a country whose cost of living has been rising so rapidly, there has so far been remarkably little unrest, even though more than 100,000 people were involved in some 900 strikes last year.

But with the new law coming into effect, many workers have found themselves worse off than in 1986, and there are fears that the scale of last year's disruption could be exceeded.

Bishops to fight seizure of lands

From Mario Modiano Athens

A general meeting of the 76-bishop Assembly of the Church of Greece has been called for Wednesday to consider the crisis caused by the Socialist Government's decision to turn over all church land to the people.

Angry prelates have also demanded a church-state separation, the closing of all churches during the celebrations for Greek Independence Day on March 25 and appeals to the European Court of Justice over the decision announced by the Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreu.

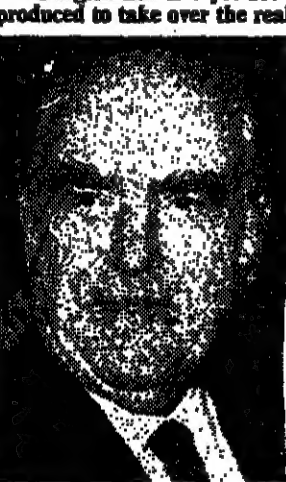
To bolster his Government's flagging popularity among Greek farmers, Mr Papandreu has decided to fulfil his long-overdue pre-election pledge to release not only the church's land but that of the deposed Greek royal family.

A draft law, which Parliament will debate on Wednesday, will virtually dispossess the church, the country's biggest landowner after the state, of more than 370,000 acres of forest, pastures and farmland, but above all of its control over highly valuable but undeveloped urban property.

After an emergency meeting, the Holy Synod, the church's 12-bishop governing body, has already asked the Government to withdraw the bill, saying it violates the constitution.

The ruling party was committed by its original platform to expropriate all big estates. But no action was taken until March 7 when Mr Papandreu, addressing his party's farm co-operative cadres, deviated from his text to announce that he was seizing all church and royal family estates before the end of this month.

No legislation has yet been produced to take over the real



Mr Papandreu: collision course with church.

estate of King Constantine, who has lived in exile since his abortive bid to overthrow the military junta in 1967. A 1974 national plebiscite then opted in favour of a republic.

What the King personally owns in Greece includes the 10,000-acre estate of Tatoi, north of Athens, site of the summer palace and the Greek royal family's graveyard; another 8,300-acre forest in Thessaly; and the Mon Repos palace and 70 acres of olive groves on the island of Corfu.

Under the draft law tabled by the Government, all farmland owned by the country's 150-odd monasteries will come under the control of the church property management agency within six months, and four government-appointed lay board members will be able to outvote the three church representatives.

The Greek church inherited vast tracts of land from the departing Turks after Greek independence in 1830. Now, according to the law, all land is to be transferred to the farm co-operatives as well as other, unspecified, state institutions, against a five per cent "tithe" to the monasteries, which will also be allowed to keep enough land for their own maintenance. Few landless peasants exist in Greece today and under the constitution forests cannot be given away by the state.

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Threat to Gulf oil by missiles

From Christopher Thomas Washington

Iran has installed large, land-based, anti-ship missiles near the Strait of Hormuz, posing a new threat to the flow of oil out of the Gulf, according to American intelligence sources quoted yesterday.

They said there were about six missiles at two separate locations near the mouth of the Gulf. One is on the Iranian coastline near the town of Kish, the other on the island of Qeshm near Bandar Abbas, a leading port. They are believed to have a range of 25 to 50 miles.

The *New York Times* quoted the sources as saying that, while the missiles may have been installed by the Iranians to protect Bandar Abbas from attack, it was more likely that they were intended to demonstrate Tehran's ability to interrupt Gulf shipping.

The missile system appears to be of a Chinese design known as HY 2 and was spotted by American intelligence in the past month. The HY 2 system is based on a Chinese-built version of the Soviet-designed missile known in the West as Styx.

It is not known if the missiles were supplied directly from China or if they came through a third party. Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, raised the issue of Chinese arms to Iran during his visit to China earlier this month.

Intelligence officials have said China is a leading weapons supplier to Iran. Mr Shultz said they denied this. Defence analysts said the missiles pose little threat to warships around the entrance to the Gulf.

Another Afrikaner defects

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The South African Government has suffered a further psychological blow with the defection of another prominent Afrikaner to the camp of former members of the ruling National Party, who are contesting the white general election on May 6 as independents.

The latest defector from the larger is Mr David de Villiers, who resigned at the weekend as a director of *Nasionale Pers* (National Press), one of the two main Afrikaner newspapers and owner of *Die Burger*, the influential mouthpiece of the National Party.

Mr de Villiers said he had decided to act as an adviser to Dr Esher Lategan, a former NP member who is running as

an independent candidate at Stellenbosch in the Western Cape, seat of the oldest Afrikaans-speaking university.

In his letter of resignation, Mr de Villiers said he had long had "misgivings" about whether it was in the interest of *Nasionale Pers* and the cause it served that its newspapers must remain closely bound to a political party. It had long been apparent, he added, that social justice could not be achieved through apartheid.

Mr de Villiers's defection follows hard on the forced resignation a week ago of Dr Willem "Wimpie" de Klerk, the brother of the Transvaal leader of the National Party, Mr F.W. de Klerk — as editor

of the *Afrikaans Sunday newspaper Rapport* because he was felt to be giving too much coverage to the independent candidates.

An opinion poll commissioned by the ultra-liberal Progressive Federal Party purports to show that whites who still believe the Government is the best vehicle for reform are now equalled in number by those who would like to see a new coalition of reform-minded parties.

Rebel shot: The police said yesterday they had shot dead an African National Congress guerrilla who tried to throw a grenade at them while digging up an arms cache he had led them to in a remote area of the Cape peninsula.

Japanese cash unites West's science research

Continued from page 1

making money in Japanese products. And second is that any breakthroughs will have to come through Japan's own original efforts or, because of the staggering cost of new programmes, in co-operation with the West.

If there is one thing that Japan fears most, probably without foundation, it is being cut off from Western sources of basic research.

The Human Frontiers programme would take care of many of Japan's concerns if Western caution can be overcome.

At the moment the Americans are showing the greatest interest while Britain is among those least enthusiastic, fearful that despite promises that the results of such research would be shared internationally, the programme might turn disproportionately to Japan's benefit while its market place spin-offs would be

rapidly exploited by Japanese corporations.

The Human Frontier programme is just one element of Japan's six-pronged approach to scientific research, spanning the years 1975-2000.

These schemes are designed to exploit private sector skills and funding much more, rather than the "old" style of tight control over every aspect of industrial and international policy, which has been phased out since 1980.

The six strategies are: ● Parallel-track research and development programmes, in which the fifth-generation computer is featured, which bring together the best brains in any one field;

● Strategic international alliances, of which the Human Frontier programme is the classic example;

● The "technopolis" concept, in which 19 areas throughout the country have been selected for development as "Silicon Valleys" to transform Japan

into a hi-tech archipelago of new research cities;

● Telecommunications networking: Japan will be the first country in the world to link its towns by fibre-optical cable in an Information Network System (INS) worth up to £100 billion;

● Promotion of venture capital and venture business to bring to the market small, adventurous, new firms;

● Selective import promotion, which is a continuation of the policy that Japan has long pursued of promoting the import of low value-added products such as raw materials and agricultural products, those hi-tech items which she herself does not yet produce — such as jet airliners.

By far the most research and development in Japan is done by the private sector but government and semi-government programmes cover some of the most significant. Among the 22 research projects watched over by the

Ministry of International Trade and Industry are such things as new alloys and ceramics which will lead eventually to car engines made of ceramics; the synthesis of speech by computers; advanced robotics and biotechnology.

The Science and Technology Agency's nine projects include many terms which are not yet in the layman's lexicon but included are such things as amorphous silicon, which has already been incorporated into solar-powered watches and calculators.

Yet the ministry and the agency take up a minority slice of Japan's public sector research and development budget which totalled 1,525 billion yen last year.

The Government is now trying to break down industry's distaste for working with the universities and, if they succeed, the combination could mean an even more formidable Japan.

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Opening up the Eastern bloc

Public disgrace for old ally of Brezhnev in anti-corruption drive

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's drive to clean up Soviet public life has taken a dramatic turn with the public disgracing of Mr Damiy Kuznetsov, a former long-serving member of the Politburo and close associate of the late President Brezhnev.

Mr Kuznetsov, aged 75, holds many of the Soviet Union's most coveted honours. He was a "Hero of Socialist Labour" in 1972, 1976 and 1982, the holder of eight Orders of Lenin, the Order of the Red Banner of Labour, and in 1959 was awarded a special medal "for valiant labour".

Western diplomatic sources said last night that the decision to take such a drastic step against a man who led the Communist Party in the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan for 22 years and was a voting member of the Politburo for 15 years was an indication that plans might be under way to bring him to formal trial.

In announcing the move, Tass said that a leading party body in Kazakhstan had been instructed "to discuss the question of the responsibility as a party member of Mr Kuznetsov - official jargon meaning that expulsion from the party is likely to follow."

The Soviet agency listed charges against the former regional party chief, whose removal from office last December prompted fierce rioting. They were: "gross violations of the standards of party life; establishing the cult

of his personality; distorting of the mentalities of 'everything goes', which led to the development in the republic of protectionism; abuse of office; bribe-taking; corruption; nationalism and other negative phenomena".

The action, which was instigated by Mr Kuznetsov's successor as party chief, the



Mr Kuznetsov: holder of many top Soviet honours.

Russian-born Mr Gennadiy Kolbin, is understood to have had Mr Gorbachev's personal approval.

The Western sources explained that if Mr Kuznetsov were eventually brought to trial, it would be the first time that a top party leader had been subjected to criminal charges since the show trials and execution in the 1930s of Old Bolshevik revolutionaries, including Nikolai

Bukharin, Lev Kamenev and Grigory Zinoviev.

The most recent example of such a high-level party official leaving office under a cloud was in 1972, when the Georgian party leader, Mr Vasily Mzhavandadze, was retired amid widespread rumours of corruption which were never publicly confirmed. He was given a pension and there was no public reprimand.

Since Mr Kuznetsov was ousted from the leadership of the Kazakh party, Mr Kolbin, a staunch Gorbachev loyalist, has been conducting a ruthless purge of corrupt officials. Earlier this month, an opulent chain of guest-houses and hunting lodges reserved for the party elite was turned into kindergartens and summer camps for young people.

According to Soviet sources, the December riots and the subsequent investigation of their cause demonstrated the full extent to which Kazakhstan had become corrupted under Mr Kuznetsov's leadership. He was finally dismissed from the Politburo in January. His supporters, many with a vested interest in his survival, were among those who instigated the street violence.

The city council in Moscow, under its disgraced former mayor, Mr Vladimir Promyslov, failed to present annual accounts for 30 years, the capital's party leader, Mr Boris Yeltsin, told *Moskovskaya Pravda* yesterday (Reuters reports).

Editor's call to extend openness

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Mr Viktor Afanasyev, the editor of *Pravda* and the Soviet Union's most influential journalist, has called for the controversial policy of glasnost to be further extended to cover what he described as "restricted zones" still facing the media in their reporting.

Addressing the journalists' congress, Mr Afanasyev said on Saturday that the Soviet media had become much more

critical since Mr Gorbachev launched his campaign for openness, and that increasingly senior officials were having to submit to the gaze of the press.

However, Mr Afanasyev acknowledged that restricted zones remained. "In particular, departments in charge of space missions give scanty information to journalists and do so reluctantly."

● Hunger strike *Pravda* yesterday published a poem accusing the White House of ignoring an American scientist in the sixth month of an anti-nuclear hunger strike (Reuters reports).

The poem said the protest by Mr Charles Hyder had met with "black silence" from the Reagan Administration even though he was on the verge of death.

Hungarians march for democracy

From Richard Bassett, Budapest

More than 2,000 Hungarians marched through Budapest yesterday to celebrate National Day and call for more democracy.

The march began spontaneously just after midday, when several hundred young Hungarians gathered round one of the most cherished monuments in Budapest, the statue of Sandor Petofi, Hungary's 19th-century revolutionary poet.

Hungarians of every conceivable background - including dissidents and survivors of the 1956 revolution - appeared; there were also punk rockers with their hair dyed in Hungary's national colours of red, white and green, and people dressed in the lavish hussar-style uniform which was the historical formal attire of the country. All without exception wore ribbons of the Hungarian flag. As they marched along the Danube they stopped at monuments erected at the places where Hungary's 1848 democratic revolutionaries were shot by the Austrians.

Here, though the police had gone to great pains to erect loudspeakers which would drown their speeches, the crowd cheered as Mr Gyorgy Gado, a dissident editor, addressed them.

He reminded them that the 1848 revolutionaries had demanded a free press and an independent government for Hungary, two things the country still did not possess.

There were roars of applause when he said he hoped it would one day be possible for them all to march to the grave of Imre Nagy, the executed Prime Minister, who had been at the centre of the 1956 uprising.

In contrast to last year's National Day, Budapest police heeded warnings to keep a low profile and avoid provocation or violence. At the end of last year's march, police and demonstrators had clashed on the Chain Bridge after the authorities arrested a young girl.

Yesterday, with very few uniformed police visible during the march, cooler heads prevailed. By the time the marchers had passed the Foreign Ministry and reached Bathany Square by the late afternoon their numbers had dwindled, but there were still several hundred left to sing a resounding chorus of one of the 1848 revolutionary hymns. It was a poignant reminder to the authorities that, for many Hungarians, patriotism and liberty march hand in hand.

Thatcher may meet Sakharov

By Nicholas Beeson

Mrs Thatcher may meet at least one senior Soviet dissident, possibly the human rights campaigner, Dr Andrei Sakharov, during her visit to Moscow at the end of the month.

Although details of her trip have not yet been completed, it would be in keeping with British policy towards the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc countries for the Prime Minister to hold talks with dissident figures.

"It is an invariable rule for British ministers travelling abroad to hear a wide range of opinions in the country concerned. That goes for communist countries as much as for any others," a British diplomat said yesterday.

In past visits to the Eastern bloc, the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Mr Timothy Renton, have always made a point of holding talks with key dissident figures, but it is not thought that any appointments will be made without the tacit approval of the Soviet authorities.

Details of the Prime Minister's meetings are still being worked out by British diplomats in Moscow.

Hong Kong press to lobby Britain over laws said to restrict freedom

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

Severe tension has arisen between press circles and the British-dominated Hong Kong Government since the passage of a measure seen as restricting press freedom.

The Public Order Amendment Ordinance, which passed into law at the Legislative Council meeting on Wednesday, has been widely criticized for putting the burden of proof on newspapers if they are accused of printing material regarded as likely to alarm the public.

Mr David Ford, the Chief Secretary of the Government, has denounced newspapers, lawyers and budding politicians for saying that the amendments will make it easier to silence press criticism not only now, but after 1997, when Hong Kong will become part of China.

Opponents of the new law have said it was published less than a week before it was debated and passed by a narrow margin. It puts the burden of proof on journalists who print news which the authorities say is inaccurate or prejudicial to public order to clear themselves of the charge.

Local journalists say this will deprive them of the right to protect their sources.

A representative from the Hong Kong Journalists' Association will visit London soon to lobby for the law to be repealed, and a direct approach to the Queen is contemplated.

The Government's attitude, as explained by Mr Ford, is that many potentially repressive measures against the

press have already been repealed, and that the amendments are aimed only at irresponsible journalism.

Peking has promised that the territory will continue to enjoy a capitalist economic system and British-type laws for 50 years after 1997, but the recurrent political turmoil in China makes many people doubt that these promises can be honoured.

The best guarantee, it is

widely recognized here, are the substantial foreign exchange earnings Peking gets from Hong Kong's dynamic economy and free trade system.

The bitter debate about press freedom will soon be tossed into the lap of Sir David Wilson, the Governor-designate. Some political activists here have suggested that Sir David should consider repealing the legislation in question, but this is highly unlikely.

The main spokesman for press freedom and other basic liberties in Hong Kong, now and in the future, is Mr Martin Lee, a local Chinese lawyer trained in Britain. Mr Lee has increasingly become an isolated opponent of the Government in the Legislative Council and has aroused the ire of Mr Ford, who resents being accused of backing oppressive measures.

The big problem is that the mass of Hong Kong people are not accustomed to making their views heard on political issues, especially since they may be called to account in 10 years' time if they have no way of emigrating.

US helicopters pluck 37 from Soviet ship



A US Coast Guard helicopter hovered over a Soviet cargo ship during rescue operations after the ship began to capsize in heavy seas 210 miles off the New Jersey coast at the weekend. American helicopters rescued all 37 people on board the *Komsomolets Kirgizii* (Charles Bremner writes from Washington).

A woman and a baby were plucked first from the deck of the Soviet ship, which sent an automatic distress signal after the vessel's engines failed.

It was listing heavily to port after a broadside battering from huge waves on Saturday.

Only one member of the crew was

slightly injured, with a cut finger, a Coast Guard spokesman said.

The 37 were taken to a motel in a Philadelphia suburb before flying to Moscow from New York yesterday.

The ship, carrying a cargo of flour from Nova Scotia to Cuba, was presumed to have sunk.

Sri Lanka's civil war

Innocent die in shelling that never was

From Michael Hamlyn, Jaffna

As many as 20 innocent people died when mortars fell in the crowded streets of Jaffna in the northern city in Sri Lanka a week ago. The figure varies according to whom you talk, but the lowest figure is 20.

The shelling was the worst example of random civilian killing that Jaffna has experienced in the four-year-old civil war between separatist fighting for an independent Tamil state in the north and east of the country and the armed forces.

But a government communiqué from the media centre of the National Security Ministry insists that the shelling did not happen.

The communiqué issued last week refers to reports published in Indian newspapers and says firmly: "No such incidents of killing and damage to property took place on the date or dates mentioned. All the reports are figments of the minds of terrorist propagandists picked up by correspondents not always wedded to the bal-

anced reporting of news." Outside the Rajah cinema, a few hundred yards north of the main bazaar in Jaffna, the gate pillar is deeply pitted by shrapnel. The ground round the foot of the pillar is still blackened where a young man selling petrol in bottles was incinerated when the shells struck. Petrol is sold like this in Jaffna because a fuel embargo by the Government has reduced supplies drastically.

The shopfronts around are also pockmarked by pieces of flying metal. In the little hardware store owned by Mr Shabir Hussain across the road the floor is darkly stained with blood. Mr Shabir himself died. His brother lay on the floor with blood pouring from a wound in his leg, but he is alive in a Jaffna hospital.

Altogether eight Muslims died as a result of a conflict in which they took no part. The quarrel is between the ethnic Tamils, mainly Hindu, and the majority Sinhalese, mainly Buddhist.

The shelling began, the guerrillas admit, while they were firing mortars at the old Dutch fort by the sea front in Jaffna.

But they are adamant that they were not firing from anywhere near the cinema. "Our mortars are locally manufactured; they can't go that far," Mr Balasubramaniam Kanakaratham, who is known as "Rahim," explained. He is the local spokesman for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the most powerful guerrilla group.

The cinema projectionist, hearing the shelling, stopped the picture and advised the audience to go home. They were caught densely packed in the open when three mortar bombs fell.

At the hospital quarter a mile away, they had problems of their own. "When I heard shells being fired I went to outpatients to see what was happening," Dr Sivakumar, the president of the Jaffna branch of the Government Medical Officers' Association, said. "There was a large number of people there, because visiting time had just ended. I told them to get right inside the building."

"It was just as well. After most of them had moved, a shell fell where they had been."

As it was, only one person died in the hospital blast, a volunteer social worker in the patients' welfare department.

By this time the whole hospital was in a panic, and then 50 patients arrived from the cinema blasts and "We ran out of blood," Dr Sivakumar said.

After half an hour volunteer blood donors began arriving at the hospital, "but by then it was too late for many."

People's anger at the bloodshed has combined with their feelings of undue persecution because of the fuel embargo and the cutting off of telecommunication links with the rest of the country. It has undone much of the work that certain elements within the armed forces have been attempting while trying to win Tamil hearts and minds.

"It has been a real setback," admitted one military man at Palaly camp, the biggest military installation in the Jaffna peninsula.

200,000 to flee Ukraine floods

Moscow (AP) - Record

snowfalls in the Donetsk region of the Ukraine and continued cold temperatures have posed a danger of widespread flooding that will force the evacuation of about 200,000 people, *Komsomolskaya Pravda* reported.

Experts say about 280 square miles will be flooded with the belated spring thaw.

● Water safe: Radioactive contamination of water supplies around Chernobyl will not reach danger levels when snow starts to melt, Mr Konstantin Sytnik, vice-president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, told *Pravda*.

Suicide bid

Hong Kong (Reuters) - Twenty-one people were hurt when a peasant woman tried to commit suicide by exploding a grenade in a railway station restaurant in north-west China.

Air born

Karachi (AFP) - Two air-hostesses and a steward delivered a girl born to a Pakistani woman on a Pakistan International Airlines flight between Karachi and Doha.

Iran warning

Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, has warned the civilian and military hierarchy against discord within the nation. Tehran radio said in a broadcast monitored by the BBC in London.

Macao talks

Peking - The fourth, and possibly final, round of talks between Peking and Lisbon on the return of the Portuguese colony of Macao to China are expected to begin here on Wednesday, Portuguese Embassy officials said.

Finnish poll

Helsinki - Voting was slow yesterday on the first day of Finland's two-day general election. Results are expected late tonight.

Sinatra home

Palm Springs (AFP) - Frank Sinatra has left the Eisenhower Medical Centre here after surgery to remove scar tissue from an earlier abdominal operation.

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Anytime YES or NO to each question below. If you are 54 or under and can truthfully answer NO to the questions, you will be accepted as a non-smoker. Further questions or medical examinations will not be required.

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2. Have you received, or have you any reason for expecting to receive, medical advice, treatment or services, including blood tests, connecting with any, within the last five years? YES NO

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5. If you have ever been in the armed forces, please state your service details on a separate sheet of paper, but not with the coupon.

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41

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AGE		LIFE COVER							
MALE	FEMALE	SMOKE*	NON-SMOKE*	SMOKE*	NON-SMOKE*	SMOKE*	NON-SMOKE*	SMOKE*	NON-SMOKE*
18-29	18-33	22,546	33,031	30,338	37,704	50,168	63,776	72,578	113,665
30	34	22,947	33,432	30,739	38,105	50,569	64,177	72,979	114,066
31	35	23,348	33,833	31,140	38,506	50,970	64,578	73,380	114,467
32	36	23,749	34,234	31,541	38,907	51,371	64,979	73,781	114,868
33	37	24,150	34,635	31,942	39,308	51,772	65,380	74,182	115,269
34	38	24,551	35,036	32,343	39,709	52,173	65,781	74,583	115,670
35	39	24,952	35,437	32,744	40,110	52,574	66,182	74,984	116,071
36	40	25,353	35,838	33,145	40,511	52,975	66,583	75,385	116,472
37	41	25,754	36,239	33,546	40,912	53,376	66,984	75,786	116,873
38	42	26,155	36,640	33,947	41,313	53,777	67,385	76,187	117,274
39	43	26,556	37,041	34,348	41,714	54,178	67,786	76,588	117,675
40	44	26,957	37,442	34,749	42,115	54,579	68,187	76,989	118,076
41	45	27,358	37,843	35,150	42,516	54,980	68,588	77,390	118,477
42	46	27,759	38,244	35,551	42,917	55,381	68,989	77,791	118,878
43	47	28,160	38,645	35,952	43,318	55,782	69,390	78,192	119,279
44	48	28,561	39,046	36,353	43,719	56,183	69,791	78,593	119,680
45	49	28,962	39,447	36,754	44,120	56,584	70,192	78,994	120,081
46	50	29,363	39,848	37,155	44,521	56,985	70,593	79,395	120,482
47	51	29,764	40,249	37,556	44,922	57,386	70,994	79,796	120,883
48	52	30,165	40,650	37,957	45,323	57,787	71,395	80,197	121,284
49	53	30,566	41,051	38,358	45,724	58,188	71,796	80,598	121,685
50	54	30,967	41,452	38,759	46,125	58,589	72,197	80,999	122,086
51	55	31,368	41,853	39,160	46,526	58,990	72,598	81,400	122,487
52	56	31,769	42,254	39,561	46,927	59,391	72,999	81,801	122,888
53	57	32,170	42,655	39,962	47,328	59,792	73,400	82,202	123,289
54	58	32,571	43,056	40,363	47,729	60,193	73,801	82,603	123,690
55	59	32,972	43,457	40,764	48,130	60,594	74,202	83,004	124,091
56	60	33,373	43,858	41,165	48,531	60,995	74,603	83,405	124,492
57	61	33,774	44,259	41,566	48,932	61,396	75,004	83,806	124,893
58	62	34,175	44,660	41,967	49,333	61,797	75,405	84,207	125,294
59	63	34,576	45,061	42,368	49,734	62,198	75,806	84,608	125,695
60	64	34,977	45,462	42,769	50,135	62,599	76,207	85,009	126,096
61	65	35,378	45,863	43,170	50,536	62,999	76,608	85,410	126,497
62	66	35,779	46,264	43,571	50,937	63,400	77,009	85,811	126,898
63	67	36,180	46,665	43,972	51,338	63,801	77,410	86,212	127,299
64	68	36,581	47,066	44,373	51,739	64,202	77,811	86,613	127,700
65	69	36,982	47,467	44,774	52,140	64,603	78,212	87,014	128,101
66	70	37,383	47,868	45,175	52,541	65,004	78,613	87,415	128,502
67	71	37,784	48,269	45,576	52,942	65,405	79,014	87,816	128,903
68	72	38,185	48,670	45,977	53,343	65,806	79,415	88,217	129,304
69	73	38,586	49,071	46,378	53,744	66,207	79,816	88,618	129,705
70	74	38,987	49,472	46,779	54,145	66,608	80,217	89,019	130,106
71	75	39,388	49,873	47,180	54,546	67,009	80,618	89,420	130,507
72	76	39,789	50,274	47,581	54,947	67,410	81,019	89,821	130,908
73	77	40,190	50,675	47,982	55,348	67,811	81,420	90,222	131,309
74	78	40,591	51,076	48,383	55,749	68,212	81,821	90,623	131,710
75	79	40,992	51,477	48,784	56,150	68,613	82,222	91,024	132,111
76	80	41,393	51,878	49,185	56,551	69,014	82,623	91,425	132,512
77	81	41,794	52,279	49,586	56,952	69,415	83,024	91,826	132,913
78	82	42,195	52,680	49,987	57,353	69,816	83,425	92,227	133,314
79	83	42,596	53,081	50,388	57,754	70,217	83,826	92,628	133,715
80	84	42,997	53,482	50,789	58,155	70,618	84,227	93,029	134,116
81	85	43,398	53,883	51,190	58,556	71,019	84,628	93,430	134,517
82	86	43,799	54,284	51,591	58,957	71,420	85,029	93,831	134,918
83	87	44,200	54,685	51,992	59,358	71,821	85,430	94,232	135,319
84	88	44,601	55,086	52,393	59,759	72,222	85,831	94,633	135,720
85	89	45,002	55,487	52,794	60,160	72,623	86,232	95,034	136,121
86	90	45,403	55,888	53,195	60,561	73,024	86,633	95,435	136,522
87	91	45,804	56,289	53,596	60,962	73,425	87,034	95,836	136,923
88	92	46,205	56,690	53,997	61,363	73,826	87,435	96,237	137,324
89	93	46,606	57,091	54,398	61,764	74,227	87,836	96,638	137,725
90	94	47,007	57,492	54,799	62,165	74,628	88,237	97,039	138,126
91	95	47,408	57,893	55,200	62,566	75,029	88,638	97,440	138,527
92	96	47,809	58,294	55,601	62,967	75,430	89,039	97,841	138,928
93	97	48,210	58,695	56,002	63,368	75,831	89,440	98,242	139,329
94	98	48,611	59,096	56,403	63,769	76,232	89,841	98,643	139,730
95	99	49,012	59,497	56,804	64,170	76,633	90,242	99,044	140,131
96	100	49,413	59,898	57,205	64,571	77,034	90,643	99,445	140,532
97	101	49,814	60,299	57,606	64,972	77,435	91,044	99,846	140,933
98	102	50,215	60,700	58,007	65,373	77,836	91,445	100,247	141,334
99	103	50,616	61,101	58,408	65,774	78,237	91,846	100,648	141,735
100	104	51,017	61,502	58,809	66,175	78,638	92,247	101,049	142,136
101	105	51,418	61,903	59,210	66,576	79,039	92,648	101,450	142,537
102	106	51,819	62,304	59,611	66,977	79,440	93,049	101,851	142,938
103	107	52,220	62,705	60,012	67,378	79,841	93,450	102,252	143,339
104	108	52,621	63,106	60,413	67,779	80,242	93,851	102,653	143,740
105	109	53,022	63,507	60,814	68,180	80,643	94,252	103,054	144,141
106	110	53,423	63,908	61,215	68,581	81,044	94,653	103,455	144,542
107	111	53,824	64,309	61,616	68,982	81,445	95,054	103,856	144,943
108	112	54,225	64,710	62,017	69,383	81,846	95,455	104,257	145,344
109	113	54,626	65,111	62,418	69,784	82,247	95,856	104,658	145,745
110	114	55,027	65,512	62,819	70,185	82,648	96,257	105,059	146,146
111	115	55,428	65,913	63,220	70,586	83,049	96,658	105,460	146,547
112	116	55,829	66,314	63,621	70,987	83,450	97,059	105,861	146,948
113	117	56,230	66,715	64,022	71,388	83,851	97,460	106,262	147,349
114	118	56,631	67,116	64,423	71,789	84,252	97,861	106,663	147,750
115	119	57,032	67,517	64,824	72,190	84,653	98,262	107,064	148,151
116	120	57,433	67,918	65,225	72,591	85,054	98,663	107,465	148,552
117	121	57,834	68,319	65,626	72,992	85,455	99,064	107,866	148,953
118	122	58,235	68,720	66,027	73,393	85,856	99,465	108,267	149,354
119	123	58,636	69,121	66,428	73,794	86,257	99,866	108,668	149,755
120	124	59,037	69,522	66,829	74,195	86,658	100,267	109,069	150,156
121	125	59,438	69,923	67,230	74,596	87,059	100,668	109,470	150,557
122	126	59,839	70,324	67,631	74,997	87,460	101,069	109,871	150,958
123	127	60,240	70,725	68,032	75,398	87,861	101,470	110,272	151,359
124	128	60,641	71,126	68,433	75,799	88,262	101,871	110,673	151,760
125	129	61,042	71,527	68,834	76,200	88,663	102,272	111,074	152,161
126	130	61,443	71,928	69,235	76,601	89,064	102,673	111,475	152,562
127	131	61,844	72,329	69,636	77,002	89,465	103,074	111,876	152,963
128	132	62,245	72,730	70,037	77,403	89,866	103,475	112,277	153,364
129	133	62,646	73,131	70,438	77,804	90,267	103,876	112,678	153,765
130	134	63,047	73,532	70,839	78,205	90,668	104,277	113,079	154,166
131	135	63,448	73,933	71,240	78,606	91,069	104,678	113,480	154,567
132	136	63,849	74,334	71,641	79,007	91,470	105,079	113,881	154,968
133	137	64,250	74,735	72,042	79,408	91,871	105,480	114,282	155,369
134	138	64,651	75,136	72,443	79,809	92,272	105,881	114,683	155,770
135	139	65,052	75,537	72,844	80,210	92,673	106,282	115,084	156,171
136	140	65,453	75,938	73,245	80,611	93,074	106,683	115,485	156,572
137	141	65,854	76,339	73,646	81,012	93,475	107,084	115,886	156,973
138	142	66,255	76,740	74,047	81,413	93,876	107,485	116,287	157,374
139	143	66,656	77,141	74,448	81,814	94,277	107,886	116,688	157,775
140	144	67,057	77,542	74,849	82,215	94,678	108,287	117,089	158,176
141	145	67,458	77,943						

Agony of prison sentence without end for the 26 missing foreigners in Lebanon

Death threat by kidnappers marks grim anniversaries

From Robert Fisk
Beirut

The face of Jean-Louis Normandin in yesterday morning's Beirut newspapers symbolized all 26 foreigners missing in Lebanon.

The latest snapshot to be released by his kidnappers — announcing this time that his "trial" was under way and would be followed within 48 hours by his "execution" — showed that the French television engineer had had his hair cut. But he was staring into the camera with the same tired, questioning eyes that have appeared in other photographs of hostages.

They are all enduring a sentence without end. Mr Terry Anderson, the bureau chief of the Associated Press in Beirut, today celebrates, if such a word can be used of so melancholy an occasion, the second anniversary of his kidnapping.

Tomorrow it will be two months to the day since Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, who was trying to free Mr Anderson, disappeared.

For the most part, these Western captives have faded from the consciousness of the Lebanese as surely as they have vanished from sight.

Since Mr Waite drove off into the night of Tuesday,

January 20, no snapshot of him has been released, not even a statement by those who must be holding him. Is he a hostage like the other foreigners held or simply, as one militia official put it, "in detention"?

None of those Lebanese leaders who have tried to help him appears to have the slightest idea.

That most of the 26 men are held in the southern Shia Muslim suburbs of west Beirut.

France has appealed to the "Organization of Revolutionary Justice" to spare the life of the French hostage, M Jean-Louis Normandin (Sassan MacDonald writes from Paris). The French Foreign Ministry statement came after the group holding M Normandin threatened to execute him in 48 hours.

But, into which the Syrians have not penetrated, is taken for granted. But there is growing uncertainty about Syria's enthusiasm to free the hostages in the near future.

A brief report in yesterday's issue of the Beirut daily newspaper *an-Nahar* suggested that the political alliance between Syria and Iran would begin to fall apart if M Normandin is murdered when the latest deadline of his

kidnappers, who are thought to be pro-Iranian, expires later today.

The awesome gulf which divides the thinking and the power of Beirut's kidnappers and the governments they wish to influence was painfully illustrated at the weekend.

While the French Prime Minister's official spokesman, M Denis Baudouin, was making a formal appeal for the life of M Normandin, the captors were delivering to *an-Nahar* an ill-written and ungrammatical accusation of French Government betrayal and duplicity.

It was scribbled in Arabic on two sheets of school notebook paper, apparently in great haste.

M Normandin, it said, had been "committed for trial" and his kidnappers, the so-called "Revolutionary Justice Organization", would "hand down the just sentence to execute him within 48 hours of the completion of his trial".

The French Government had sometimes demanded "to trade the hostages for money and sometimes for arms, industrial and economic projects... We have reached agreements and commitments when progress was achieved in

the negotiations and implementation had begun. But plenty of time has since been lost by endless efforts to wake French officials out of their grandiose dreams — dreams that France is still a super-power".

The crude pseudo-legal phrasing of the statement and the awful pressure placed upon M Normandin's family — the statement is in effect a postponement of an earlier 48-hour deadline to kill him — is typical of so many communications from at least five different groups of kidnappers here over the past three years.

One of the Americans kidnapped is believed to have been murdered, while one of the French and one of the Britons — Mr Alec Collett, a journalist working for the United Nations — were said by their captors to have been killed.

Journalists, writers, priests, academics, doctors and businessmen have been included among the 72 foreigners kidnapped here over the past three years.

That reporters should have lost their immunity in Lebanon virtually destroyed the press corps in Beirut.

Mr Terry Anderson is the most prominent reporter still in the hands of kidnappers. A



M Jean-Louis Normandin, above, in a photograph sent to a Beirut newspaper. Other victims, clockwise from top, are Mr Terry Anderson, Mr John McCarthy, Mr Joseph Ciccipio and Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy.



The victims of Beirut's civil war turmoil

- American:**
William Buckley, kidnapped on March 16, 1984: American Embassy political officer in Beirut. "Islamic Jihad" claimed to have killed him.
Terry Anderson, March 16, 85: Beirut bureau chief of Associated Press.
Thomas Sutherland, June 9, 85: the dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut (AUB).
Frank Reed, Sept 9, 86: the director of the Lebanon International School in Beirut.
Joseph Ciccipio, Sept 12, 86: controller of the AUB.
Edward Tracy, Oct 21, 86: author of children's books.
Jesse Turner, Jan 24, 87: visiting professor of mathematics and computer science at Beirut University College (BUC).
Robert Polhill, Jan 24, 87: assistant professor of business at BUC.
Alan Steen, Jan 24, 87: journalism professor at BUC.
- French**
Marcel Fontaine, March 22, 85: French Embassy Vice-Consul.
Marcel Carton, March 22, 85: French Embassy protocol officer.
Michel Sourat, May 22, 85: researcher at the French Centre for Studies and Research of the Contemporary Middle East. "Islamic Jihad" later claimed they had killed him.
Jean-Paul Kauffmann, May 22, 85: journalist for French weekly *L'Evenement du Jeudi*.
- British**
Alec Collett, March 25, 85: writer working with United Nations. "Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims" later claimed to have murdered him.
John McCarthy, April 17, 86: cameraman for Worldwide Television.
Terry Waite, Jan 20, 87: the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy.
- West German**
Rudolf Cordes, Jan 17, 87: businessman with Hoechst.
Alfred Schmidt, Jan 20, 87: engineer with Siemens.
- Saudi Arabian**
Bakr Damanhour, Jan 12, 87: cultural section of Saudi Arabian Embassy.
Khaled Dee, Jan 26, 87: Saudi national (employment unknown).
- Indian**
Mithileswar Singh, Jan 24, 87: visiting professor of finance at BUC.
- Irish**
Brian Keenan, April 11, 86: teacher at AUB.
- Italian**
Alberto Molinari, Sept 11, 85: businessman.
- South Korean**
Do Chae-Sung, Jan 31, 86: Second Secretary at South Korean Embassy.

Kenyan leader's Western tour

Diplomatic flop for Moi in US

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya left here on Saturday night after a visit which had turned into something of a diplomatic disaster.

Throughout the week he came under attack from members of Congress and the press, and was even given a forthright warning by President Reagan about maintaining high standards on human rights.

The Kenyan President cancelled a planned meeting in New York with Senator Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary General of the United Nations, without explanation, but it is assumed it was because he was so angry about the reception he received in closed-door sessions with Administration officials.

The atmosphere was made even more uncomfortable by front-page newspaper accounts of the alleged use of torture by Kenyan police.

In briefings to journalists before the visit began a week ago, Administration officials said the trip was intended to underscore the importance which Washington attaches to its Kenyan ties.

But on Friday the State Department took the unusual step of issuing a statement expressing concern about allegations of police torture. Several members of Congress also criticized Kenya's

human rights record during President Moi's visit. Earlier this year a congressional delegation to Kenya was refused permission to meet human rights activists.

London talks: President Moi will hold talks with the Queen and Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, today during his visit.

Armed bandits have ambushed a crowded country bus on a lonely road in Eastern Kenya, killing 12 passengers and wounding at least another 26 (Alastair Matheson reports from Nairobi).

Survivors, who waited five hours for help, said that at least five bandits, who resembled Somalis, sprayed bullets at point-blank range and then made off with money and valuables.

A two-day visit that is expected to run more smoothly (Nicholas Beeston writes).

Although it was not clear what topics would be discussed between the Prime Minister and President Moi, it was thought unlikely that Britain would touch on any sensitive issues.

President Moi will not be meeting any Foreign Office ministers, but will be holding talks with Mr Christopher Patten, the Minister for Overseas Development.

Mombasa promises to drive out the Mafia

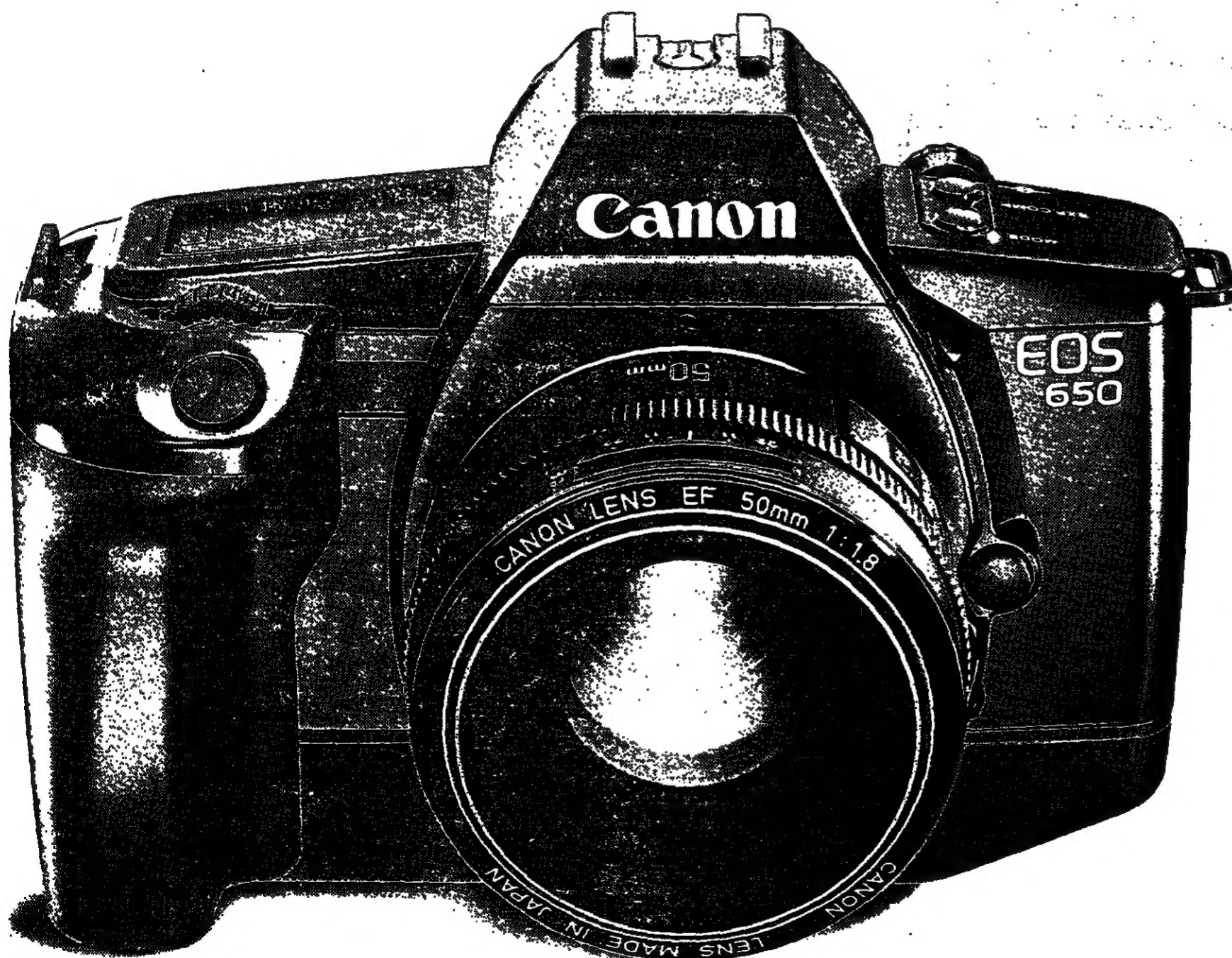
Nairobi — Mr Shariff Nassir, the Mombasa branch chairman of the ruling political party, Kanu, has pledged to rid Kenya's coastal resorts of Mafia gangsters (Alastair Matheson writes).

His threat to use party members and security forces in a "manhunt" for Mafia criminals operating in Mombasa hotels and casinos follows last week's revelation that Mombasa was an important link in the Mafia's worldwide money-laundering process.

A photograph showing Francesco di Carlo and his Thai mistress relaxing on a beach, which British investigators seized during a raid on di Carlo's English mansion, turned out to have been taken on the beach of a Mombasa hotel.

This led British and Italian investigators to Kenya, where they discovered that some Mombasa hotels and casinos were being used for laundering the Mafia's "hot" money and investing it in respectable resort hotels.

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Their report confirms that there is an increase in the risk of lung cancer from exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, possibly between 10 and 30%.

So if you're one of the minority who smoke, spare a thought for the majority who don't.

You may be giving them a lot more than runny eyes and a sore throat.



Don't force smoking down other people's throats.

To the victims, the spoils of war

Graham Wood

FALKLANDS
FIVE YEARS ON
Part 1: Invaded by the
20th century

Alan Franks reports on how the Falklands conflict changed the islands — and islanders

The south London constituency of Mitcham and Morden is a far from the Falkland Islands — 8,000 miles, to be precise. Yet five years ago this month, when the Argentinian scrap metal merchants landed on the desolate British possession of South Georgia in the South Atlantic, the destiny of these two disparate locations became peculiarly intertwined.

At that time the south London seat was held for Labour by Bruce Douglas-Mann. During the spring of 1982, when Douglas-Mann decided to resign his seat and re-stand as the SDP candidate, all seemed safe: opinion polls had the SDP ahead of Labour, with the Conservatives trailing in third place.

By polling day in June of that year, everything had changed. The Conservatives' Angela Rumbold sailed into the Commons with 42.7 per cent of the votes, ahead of Labour's David Nicholas (28.8 per cent), and Douglas-Mann, with 27.4 per cent.

The story of this reverse is worth recalling in such local detail for the simple reason that it was the Falklands War — or rather Mrs Thatcher's role in its prosecution — which, more than any other single factor, altered the electoral course, not only of Mitcham and Morden, but of the entire country at the following year's general election.

Yet now, five years later, the islands have all but reverted to their old obscurity. They remain the same remote, sheep-dependent community they always were. The capital, Port Stanley, which houses the bulk of the population, still resembles a slightly neglected fishing settlement. Many of the corrugated iron houses look sadly in want of paint, and in the outback (or Camp, from the Spanish *campo* — "field") the farmers continue their old self-sufficient and private way of life, many eschewing the "metropolis" of Stanley for years on end.

Yet beneath the surface lie alterations so far-reaching as to suggest that the lives of the 1,919 Falklanders will never be quite the same again. Shortly before the conflict, when Nicholas Ridley, then Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, travelled to the islands to discuss their future with the inhabitants, it was estimated that as many as 25 per cent, while intensely pro-British, would not be entirely opposed to some form of long-term accommodation with Buenos Aires.

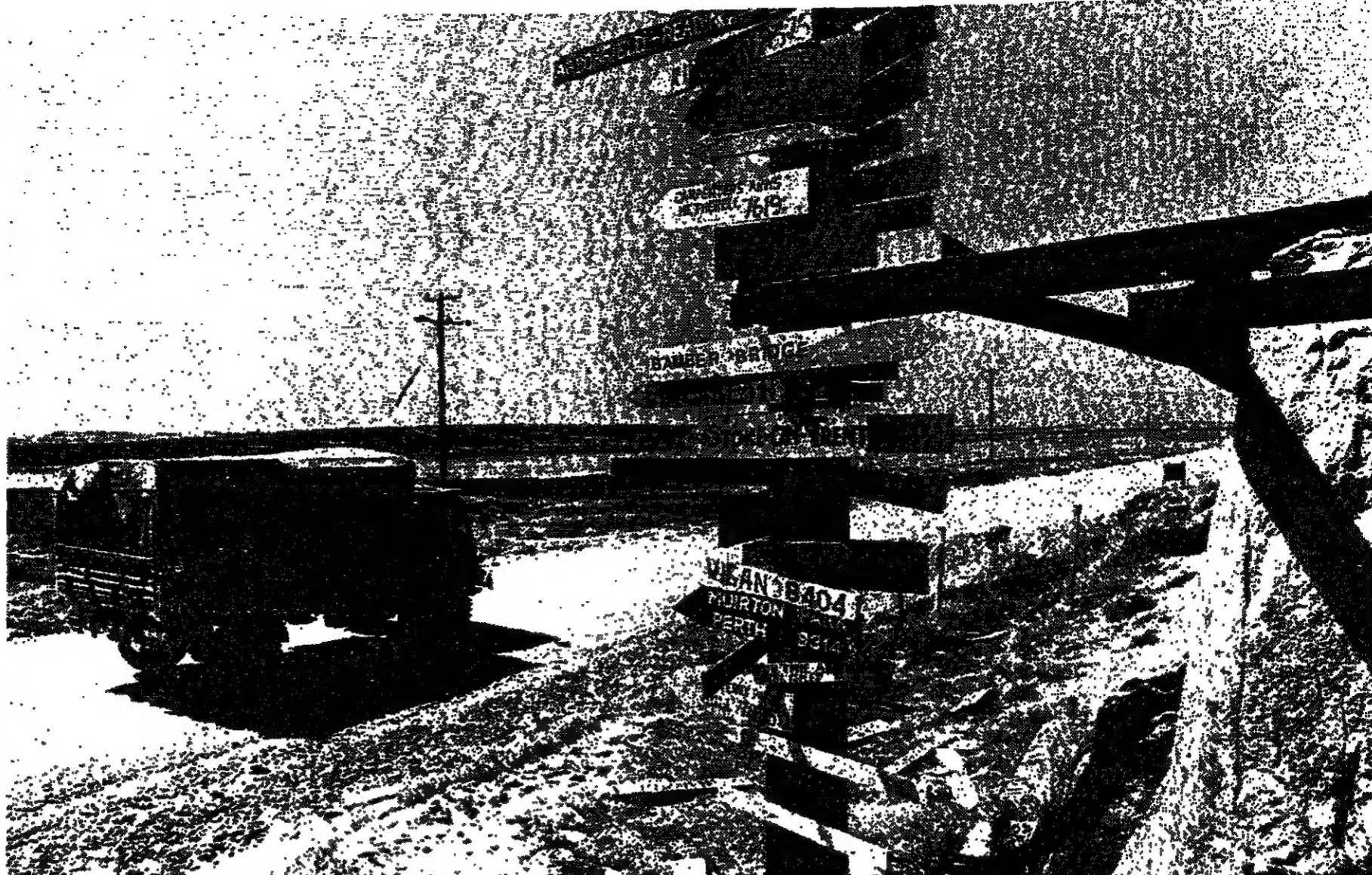
In 1982, a group of windblown islands in the South Atlantic sprang from obscurity into the world's headlines. In the first of a three-part series,

Quite what the terms of such an arrangement would be was never precisely declared, but one possibility was that it would entail a "leaseback" to Argentina, over a period of anything between 20 and 100 years. Since the conflict (the islanders still tend to skirt around the word "war"), all that has changed, and perhaps irrevocably. It is now impossible to find a single Falklander who will countenance any solution which entails Argentine involvement.

According to members of a Stanley-based association of islanders, the reason for this new hard line is the enduring sense of shock and outrage at General Galtieri's invasion. "We were appalled and disgusted," says one third-generation islander. "They told us that there would be no threat to our way of life. But what did they do when they arrived? They changed the names of the settlements and told us we must drive on the right. How are they to be trusted?"

The rubble of war still litters the place. Out in the Camp the minefields remain, cordoned off behind barbed wire fences, while in Stanley itself the military presence has only now finally moved to the garrison at Mount Pleasant, 30 miles away.

Yet there have been tangible benefits: in the wake of the war, the Government made a development grant to the islands of £31 million over five years. The result has been a vast improvement in drainage, roads and communications. In three years' time it is expected that the existing telephone system — a radio link in which everyone can hear everyone else's conversations — will be replaced by a modern cellular system. Add to that the arrival of



Show me the way to go home: on the outskirts of Port Stanley, capital of the Falklands, a signpost to remind soldiers of the British Task Force just how far they had travelled

the new hospital in Stanley, and the imminent invasion of television and there is almost enough evidence to conclude that the islands are being pulled, and not unwillingly, into the latter part of the 20th century.

There are two other recent — and vital — factors in this evolution: first, the carving up of many of the large old farming estates — the "subdivision" advocated by the present Lord Shackleton in his two reports on the islands' economy in 1976 and 1982. Secondly, there is the potential doubling of the islands' present £4 million income through the granting of 217 licences to foreign

vessels to fish in the 200-mile zone established by the British Government at the end of last year.

Subdivision has had an important social, as well as economic, impact, for it has meant that sheep farmers, for generations employed on the land of absentee owners (in particular the Falkland Islands Company, a subsidiary of Coalite) are now being offered the rights of purchase through the Falkland Islands Development Corporation.

In July 1986, a survey published by the Overseas Development Administration demonstrated not only that many farms bought since the implementation of sub-

division six years ago showed an improvement in productivity of up to 50 per cent, but also that the creation of 36 new farm units accounted for a redistribution of more than a sixth of the land farmed.

Simon Armstrong, head of the FIDC, says, "There was a time when an islander, possibly a descendant of three generations, could have left the place, after a lifetime's farming, with no more money or possessions than his great grandfather had had a century before him. He could have

fitted everything he owned in a suitcase.

"This is no longer the case. Today it is possible, and becoming more so all the time, for the farmers to have a genuine stake in their community."

But it is the granting of fishing rights, even more than subdivision, which seems set to alter the face of the economy. That estimate of £4 million profit is a catholic one, and takes into account the heavy cost of policing the zone with a light aircraft and two converted trawlers.

Yet throughout these prospects of change, many of the islanders seem strangely apologetic, even

guilty, about the continuing expenditure they are causing the British taxpayer. There is also a degree of "ostrichism" about what might happen if a government of a stripe other than Mrs Thatcher's comes to power.

While she remains in the eyes of the Argentines the unmovable, non-negotiating *Senora No*, she has become almost canonized by the Falklanders, few of whom bother to contemplate the possibility that it might have been her Government's actions — notably the diminution of British citizenship rights and the withdrawal of the patrol vessel HMS *Endurance* — which signalled to Galtieri that the Malvinas were at last there for the taking.

That sense of guilt, of being an unpopular drain on British resources, is roundly refuted by Alastair Cameron, the Falkland Islands representative in London. He is a young, impassioned and highly articulate "kelper" (native of the islands) whose grandfather emigrated to the islands late in the last century. "People in this country keep talking about the huge costs of the islands," he says. "I think it is time we started to look at them in comparison with our other defence commitments. Belize for example. The figure for defending the Falklands is down to £140 million for the year 1988-89. I don't think many people appreciate the fact that this is less than one per cent — 0.6 in fact — of Britain's total defence budget."

'I counted them out and I counted them back'



Lord Carrington
Foreign Secretary, accepted blame for Britain's failure to foresee invasion and resigned; now Secretary-General of Nato.

Sir John Nott
Secretary of State for Defence during the war. Retired from politics in 1983, now chairman and chief executive of Lazard Brothers.

Tam Dalyell
Labour MP for Linlithgow, sacked from the Opposition's front bench team for opposing the shadow cabinet's support of the task force.

Lieut-General Leopoldo Galtieri
President of Argentina when the islands were seized; convicted last spring for conduct of the campaign.

Dr Costa Mendez
Head of Argentinian delegations to the United Nations during the war. Now in semi-retirement in Argentina.

Sir Rex Hunt
As Governor, announced the surrender of the islands after the invasion; in retirement since 1985 and leading pro-Falklands campaigner.

Vice-Admiral Sir John "Sandy" Woodward
Senior Task Group Commander during the campaign; now Deputy Chief of Defence Staff.

Major-General Sir Jeremy Moore
Put in charge of all land forces after the British landing on the islands; retired from the MoD in 1983.

Brian Hanrahan
BBC reporter whose phrase "I counted them all out and I counted them all back" caught public imagination; now the BBC's man in Moscow.

Ian Macdonald
Spokesman for the Ministry of Defence whose bulletins became a feature of the evening news during the war; still an MoD administrator.

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Learn as you laze

A holiday can provide more than relaxation. Simon Tait studies the opportunities for those of an enquiring or adventurous disposition

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"It began as a way to supplement universities' income," says Carol Forrester, secretary of the British Universities Accommodation Consortium. "They realized that for at least five months of the year the accommodation was not being used by students, and could be making much needed money."

But now they've gone beyond trying to be some sort of British gite system. They're bringing their own educational expertise and the assets of surrounding regions into play to provide a new sort of holiday. Manchester University are offering "Relax & Learn" weekends for the first time, which will include all meals, accommodation, and coach transport on a number of themes.

What Manchester Thinks Today, for instance, is a weekend offering Jodrell Bank, computer history at the Institute of Science and Technology, and pilots of the past and future, at the Air and Space Museum. How the Other Half Lived contrasts the 19th-century lifestyles of the industrial gentry and the Lancashire cotton workers.

A weekend of computer history or windsurfing that with its "activity holidays." Providing half-board accommodation, meals, and transport, the Four Minsters weekend (Howden, Beverly, York, and Lincoln Cathedral) includes dinner on a Pullman train through the Yorkshire Moors; Heritage has Fountains Abbey and a candlelit dinner at a Tudor mansion; Museums has Castle "Bridgeshead" Howard included; and the Activity holiday has everything from first-time parachuting to windsurfing.

One of the pioneers of campus holidays has been Warwick University in Coventry, a founder member of BUAC. David Wilson, the residences manager who is a Fellow of the Hotel and Catering Industry Management Association. We have been going since they started three years ago, but it takes at least three years for the agencies to realize that you mean busi-

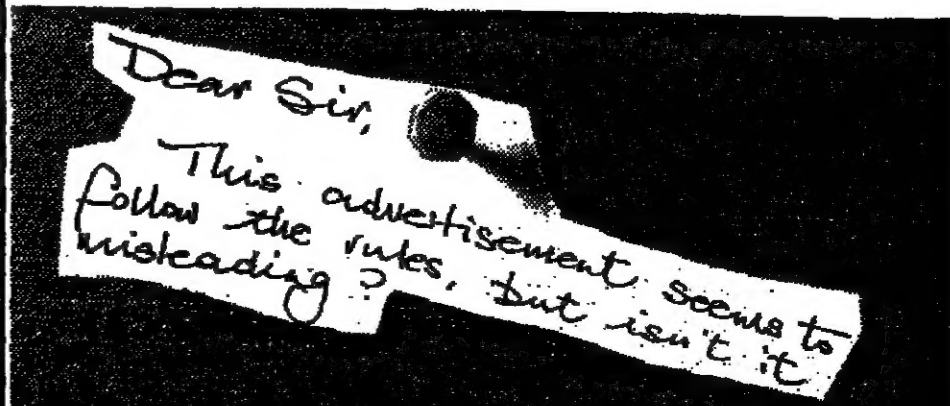
ness. This time they should get the message," says Wilson, who now has the purpose-built year-round Radcliffe House to offer. "Last year we topped £1½ million from conferences and holidays: people come back from year to year, and some tour the country staying at different campuses." Nor are they all adventurous Britons — "we seem to be turning the tables on traditional venues: we get a lot from Holland and Spain."

For further details, write to the British Universities Accommodation Consortium Limited, Box No 339, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD.

Tomorrow:
Breaking the deadlock: can Britain and Argentina declare lasting peace?

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5 Link (4)	8						
9 Vestige (5)	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10 Deer Valley region (7)	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
11 Blue white pottery (8)	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
13 Stare at (4)	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
15 Entire stock (9)	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
16 Donations for poor (8)	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
19 Kinship (8)	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
22 Light carriage (7)	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
23 Party (5)	67	68	69	70	71	72	73
24 Pavement edge (4)	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
25 Great quantities (6)	81	82	83	84	85	86	87
2 DOWN	88	89	90	91	92	93	94
2 Commercial type (5)	95	96	97	98	99	100	101
3 Lyric poem (3)	102	103	104	105	106	107	108
4 Deep bass (5,8)	109	110	111	112	113	114	115
5 Soothing oil (4)	116	117	118	119	120	121	122
6 Pasty (7)	123	124	125	126	127	128	129
7 Simmers (5)	130	131	132	133	134	135	136
10 Highest point (4)	137	138	139	140	141	142	143
12 Rub lightly (4)	144	145	146	147	148	149	150
14 Centre points (4)	151	152	153	154	155	156	157
15 Search unsystematically (7)	158	159	160	161	162	163	164
16 Seductive woman (4)	165	166	167	168	169	170	171
17 Diocesan council (5)	172	173	174	175	176	177	178
20 Senseless (5)	179	180	181	182	183	184	185
21 Cigarette end (4)	186	187	188	189	190	191	192
23 Offer (3)	193	194	195	196	197	198	199
	200	201	202	203	204	205	206



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Widows work wonders

Some of the most successful small businesses in Britain are run by women who have taken over their husbands' companies, or started up on their own in later life. Julia Orange meets some of the new breed of entrepreneurs

"I was crying, and I remember my daughter's headmistress saying: 'Time is a great healer, dear.' I wanted to scream. It sounded so true. She was right in a way, but when you've lost your husband... There's nothing like work for paying the bills."

Gilly Goschen was 40 when her husband David drowned in a sailing accident. They were on a family holiday in France. Overnight, and with virtually no experience, she took over her husband's job as owner and managing director of their Florian Studios in Dorset — a company which produces high quality, hand-decorated furniture.

"We've had dread panics," she says. "I didn't even know how the kilos worked when I took over. Financially it's still a struggle — but the decision to keep going was one of the best I ever made. In the early days when all I wanted was to put my head under a pillow and cry, it got me out of the house, meeting people. It's given us a livelihood, a sense of continuity and for me the deep pleasure of knowing David worked so hard to set up this company, and I haven't given up."

The surprising statistic that one in eight of Britain's small businesses is run by widows, emerged in a recent survey undertaken by the Small Business Research Trust. Jim Curran, one of the report's authors

and a sociologist from Kingston Polytechnic says he was "frankly amazed to find the figures so high. We imagined a high proportion of the women might be single or divorced, but I don't think anyone thought much about widows one way or the other." Yet in 1985, out of the 23,849,000 women in England and Wales, 2,946,000 were widows — nearly a quarter of them under 65.

Being overlooked is not a new experience for widows. The very classification defines you by the man you are without, rather than the woman you are. But does the small business survey statistic herald a race of super widows? Hardly. The figure blurs a stark reality: for a woman in her fifties or sixties, self-employment may be the only option.

It's not an easy one. But Zena Noran, who is a businesswoman and widow working for Cruse (an organization which counsels the recently bereaved), believes that self-employment is one of the most positive choices for a widow. "You see yourself as a person stripped bare and out in the cold. Money is not the answer — some of the saddest people I know are rich widows endlessly cruising the world. The lucky ones are those who grit their teeth and jump into life again."

And by doing so, many are surprised to discover hidden strengths and skills. Three and a half years ago, the day after her husband Laurie died suddenly of cancer at the age of 53, Elizabeth Sleightholmes took over his company, L.H. Sleightholmes of north Yorkshire, which sells agricultural buildings and organizes electrical works for piggeries. She was 46 years old at the time of her husband's death. "One week before my husband died, we had a very emotional conversation in which he said, 'I think you'll be able to carry on.' I didn't tell him I had already decided to."

She started work the day after he died and found the transition, from being boss's wife to boss, a difficult one. "This is very much a man's job in a man's place. For a very long time, although the staff were supportive, customers didn't want to know me."

Dr Robert Goffee, senior lecturer at the London Business School and author of *Women in Charge* (published by Allen & Unwin), thinks widows who have the energy and the inclination to work have several advantages over married and single women: "Often they have raised their families, have put husbands and children first, and now they can make work their top priority."

For those with no experience there are a number of sources of firm

'Without work I might have gone to pieces. To be widowed is a horrendous experience'

ELIZABETH BRADLEY

advice: the local Enterprise Agency (300 branches throughout the United Kingdom) provides training programmes for businesses; the Small Firms Service (operated by the Department of Employment) offers a free advisory service.

Elizabeth Bradley, who has been widowed twice — once in her thirties and the second time in her forties — was well prepared in this respect. She had worked on and off between her two marriages. Following "a dreadful period of depression after my second husband died — I felt I had nothing to get up for, no purpose, no direction," she did voluntary work. Then she took a careful look around the Dorset town of Sherborne for gaps in the market. She and her partner, Dorothy

Phelias, came up with the idea of a shop selling needlework and tapestry materials. "We dipped a small toe in the water by opening a shop so tiny that there was only room for one of us plus a few customers. We worked three days a week each."

Eighteen months ago when the lease became available on one of the most beautiful high street shops in Sherborne, they approached the bank for development loans. "And if they thought of patronizing us, it was shortlived. We were very well prepared."

Their new premises, the Sherborne Tapestry Centre now employs 10 part-time outworkers. Takings have more than tripled since their first year in business. The drawback, says Mrs Bradley, is weariness: "one is giving oneself all day, and so there is not much time left over for a social life and no time for jaunts." But, she says, "without work I think I might have gone to pieces. To be widowed is a horrendous experience. Although friends are tremendous, people have their own lives and children to worry about, and have a far greater respect if you are seen to help yourself. I do have fears for the future — one can't keep up this pace indefinitely — but I am enjoying the present tremendously."

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Out of the cot, into battle

London's fee-paying prep schools are so over-subscribed that anxious parents are registering babies

Competition for places at London's top fee-paying junior schools is so fierce these days that more and more are selecting their pupils by assessment — sometimes at the age of three, one year before they are due to start. "I thought we were choosing the school," commented one father. "But now I see it's the other way round."

The reasons for the current pressure are disillusionment with the state system, fewer people with young families moving out of London and the shortage of good schools in the capital.

Girls, not boys (except at mixed junior schools), are the ones who face tests at a very young age. Entrance examinations are difficult and highly competitive (four girls competing for one place is normal); boys' private primary schools, including Wetherby's, Prince William's school, take children aged five (or younger) until they are eight, their biggest hurdle comes at 13, when they take Common Entrance exams.

Distressed parents tell tales of daughters' rejection: "I rang up the headmistress, and said, 'Look, we're both graduates, she must be intelligent, couldn't you look again?'"

School heads agree that dealing with indignant parents is by far the most difficult part of choosing children. But no amount of money, or having the right name is going to help. So what are schools looking for, and how do they go about their tests? Some assess by observation at group sessions, others through stringent individual tests (toughest at Kensington Prep and Falmers House). School staff are, by and large, the assessors.

Falmers House brings in an educational child psychologist who tests each child (late in the Spring term before entry in September), and sets much store by how articulate a girl is. Sometimes, at Thomas's, for example, the child's reluctance to leave a parent is noted — "but doesn't necessarily count against them."

At respected Kensington Prep, would-be pupils are tested individually (in the first six months of the year prior to entry) for half an hour. Usually 40 girls are sifted out of 127 for further assessment in groups. Early testing is standard practice at all GPDST (Girls' Public Day Schools Trust) schools, of which Kensington Prep is one.

According to Miss Nelson, the headmistress, children

are gauged on oral memory, visual memory, concentration, co-operation, independence, initiative, response, a little manual control and number sense. Most important are how fluently the child speaks, vocabulary tests and word association. Shyness doesn't necessarily rule a child out. "I had one girl who never spoke. But I remember thinking she was a real Gorton type, and we took her," Miss Nelson says.

Parents initially pay a registration fee of between £10 and £40, and sometimes a fee "to cover costs of testing". Early registration is what counts at some schools, among them Lady Eden's and Norland Place: "People ring up literally from the hospital," report both schools. Some parents tell tales of queue-jumping by using amniocentesis results to register a boy or girl. Norlands, a mixed school, have a system of registration after birth but

Never mind mother, phone up Francis Holland and reserve a place!



are aware that it is still open to abuse by over-anxious parents.

St Paul's Junior School has its own method: the child is registered in the January of the year when it will be three, and selection is made by a lucky dip opening of envelopes a year ahead of the child's entry, as the headmistress feels that it is "far too young to test".

The list of those who do not assess or test is a short one (and dwindling); it includes Hill House, Sarum Hall, Pembroke Hall, the Unicorn, Twickenham Prep, Hampshire School and The Vale. Cynics are quick to point out that teaching intelligence is far less demanding for staff. "Of course, it's unfair, to pick on ability, or by date of registration," says Mrs Nunes, principal of Falmers House. "But to take mixed ability we would have to double our numbers, and we are unable to do so."

It is a situation about which neither schools nor parents are happy. By and large, the only ones who take it in their stride are the children.

Sarah Drummond
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Clothed uniformly

In the debate about whether women should be admitted to the priesthood, very little was made of the fact that recruitment of male candidates to the cloth wasn't exactly soaring.

Similarly, when the Royal Ulster Constabulary proclaimed, as it did last week, that there will now be no distinction made in the training of men and women, one jumps to the conclusion that the RUC is finding it difficult to attract enough chaps.

Jobs for the girls are expanding greatly, it is true, but very often they are in areas that are no longer considered very alluring as jobs for the boys.

As is the way with most ill winds, quite a lot of good is about to blow around the place. Community care is something that women have long provided — community care being a euphemism for when a frail and incontinent old lady is discharged from a geriatric ward and handed over to her already over-worked, middle-aged daughter. Since women are more practised at minders, the police force and the priesthood can only benefit by allowing women to get a salary and a uniform for performing



PENNY PERRICK

the sort of duties that they have always done unsung and unpaid.

A woman registrar I know would go further: she says that her profession should be all-female, since registrars are only called upon during times of emotional stress. Women, she claims, are more sympathetic towards snivelling brides and parents who can't decide whether to call the baby Maggie or Edwina.

What one should be asking oneself is why, when women

are clamouring to do a man's job, men aren't fighting to do a woman's one? It is not often that one bumps into a male secretary, nurse or infant school teacher, although there is no reason why men can't handle a word processor, hoist a bedridden patient into a sitting position or keep a bunch of four-year-olds in order.

With a respectful bow to those boys whose life's ambition is to hand out duty-free Chanel No 5 on Dan Air planes, most men don't want to do anything that has a service clause attached.

Should women beware of entering a professional field which suddenly and suspiciously makes room at the top for them? I think not. They should go right in and make waves. This is easy enough to say, but I know that were I to be offered the job of chief executive of a major industry, all I would feel would be deep unease. And a conviction that the power and authority which until my appointment had been invested in the job, had been secretly transferred to somebody else, somebody who was very unlikely to be a woman.

The singer Dorothy Squires, who was declared a vexatious litigant in the High Court this month, has vowed to fight the decision through the Court of Appeal, the House of Lords and the European Court of Justice. Well, she would, wouldn't she?

The ex-wife of the actor Roger Moore, described in court as having developed a "voracious appetite" for litigation after winning a £30,000 libel action against the *News of the World* in 1981, does seem to make rather a meal of it. She has started 20 lawsuits in the last five years — nine of them struck out because they were frivolous, vexatious or failed to disclose any reasonable cause of action.

Squires's name joins a list of some 70 writ-happy citizens who have been forbidden to start any further legal proceedings without special consent of the court. Simon William Peel Fletcher, father of the actress Siobhán York, was declared a vexatious litigant in 1983 after more than 20 court applications. His 40-year battle to win compensation for five companies taken over by the Ministry of Supply during the War has cost him his career, his second marriage and his home.

Most of these hunters of the courts have a burning and

Caught out at court

Vexatious litigants may have more of a problem after a case than before it

all-consuming sense of grievance over a particular wrong, real or imagined. Mr Justice May said that he had no doubt that Squires's flood of litigation was fuelled by her belief in a conspiracy to prevent publication of her autobiography, and by the appearance of a book about her ex-husband. Last month a High Court judge ruled that the Roger Moore book, which Squires claimed made her out to be a "dragon of a woman", was not libellous.

Why do some people become obsessive about litigation? They get power: Dr Michael Rowlands, a psychiatrist at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London currently

engaged in the first study of vexatious litigants, believes that "it becomes an interest, a passion. It produces a positive benefit for them." He expects that his study, still in the early stages, will show that perhaps two out of three vexatious litigants are mentally ill. "It's something which usually starts in middle age. Some of these people have sensitive personalities, and will turn a key experience into a passion."

"They're clever people. They'll issue writs in different names to get past the court; or if their faces are recognized in the Law Courts in London, they'll go to Manchester where there's a branch of the High Court. Often, they'll get another member of the family to go into court on their behalf: so there are a lot of husbands and wives and brothers and sisters on the list of vexatious litigants."

Will they respond to treatment? Dr Rowlands hopes his study will provide the answer. "They're likely to be frightened people underneath; and unlikely to accept that they need help. But if the research shows that they would respond to treatment, then the court rules could be changed to allow judges to refer them for psychiatric examination."

Clare Dyer
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Napoleon owned a vast collection of trampolines.

(Utter falsehood!)

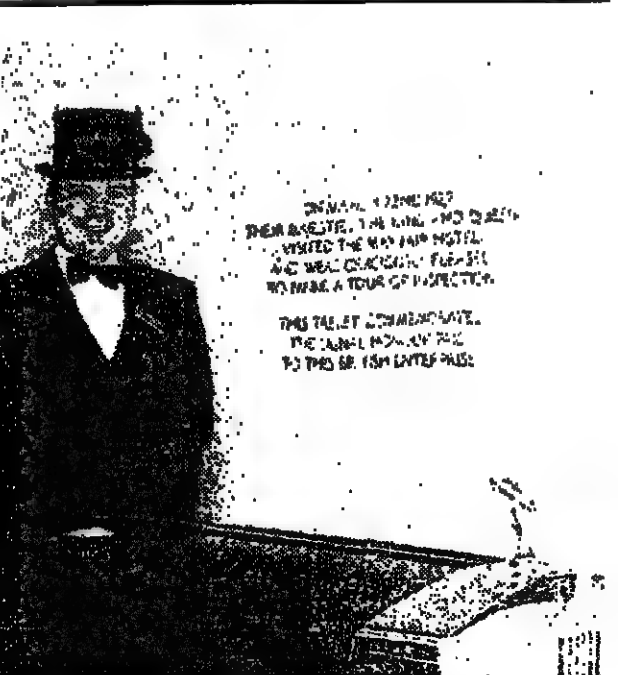
Comatose shrews can be revived by rubbing them with flour.

(Pull the other one!)

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(I'll buy that!)

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THE TIMES DIARY

Not quite above board

Labour is considering suing a firm of estate agents for advising clients to sell investment property lest the party win power. A letter from Druce and Company in west London warned that, although the market was still rising despite "the political uncertainty and the possibility of a Labour Party being elected to the next Parliament" the boom could not last much longer. The company went on to say that Labour was proposing to abolish tax relief on mortgages. Labour's director of communications, Peter Mandelson, yesterday accused the company of trying to make a quick profit out of sneering at the party. "The letter exposes Druce and Company to a rather hefty legal action by totally misrepresenting Labour policy," he said. "We find it rather shocking that a reputable estate agent should embark on such an exercise." He would not be drawn on any political motivation behind the letter: "That is for us to suspect and them to know."

● After their bean casserole suppers, vegetarians in the US have taken to brushing their gasbags with preservative-free toothpastes, among them a clay, seaweed and herb paste with the consistency of crushed avocado.

Opening wide

Labour peer Lord Northfield, adviser to the pharmaceutical giant Merck, Sharp and Dohme, is still clinging to his bill which would allow drug companies to make more money out of branded medicines. He was forced to abandon the committee stage of his private measure, which enjoys some Tory support, when fellow peers declined to provide a quorum. The whips of all parties fervently prayed that was the last they would see of it. And with Lord McIntosh, Labour's front bench spokesman, saying the bill "stinks", Northfield himself knew that he had little chance of getting any further. But McIntosh is now in China and the bill has appeared on Thursday's order paper — much to the embarrassment of his Labour colleagues, who believe it could add millions to the NHS drugs bill.

Esteemed up

California is putting \$375,000 towards bolstering its citizens' personal pride. The California Task Force to Promote Self Esteem and Personal and Social Responsibility is thought to represent the first attempt by any US state to make people feel better about themselves — or, as they put it, make them become "more positively mainstreamed into life". I can think of one former state governor who might take advantage.

Not so green

Awkward questions about the private lives of MPs are nothing new, judging by a history of the Conservative 1900 Club by Ronald Warlow, just published. Warlow describes a member's reaction in 1946 on discovering press cuttings in the club's archives describing a dinner in 1907. Learning that 300 bottles of *crème de menthe* were consumed, he observed that the guests must have taken their girlfriends rather than their wives.

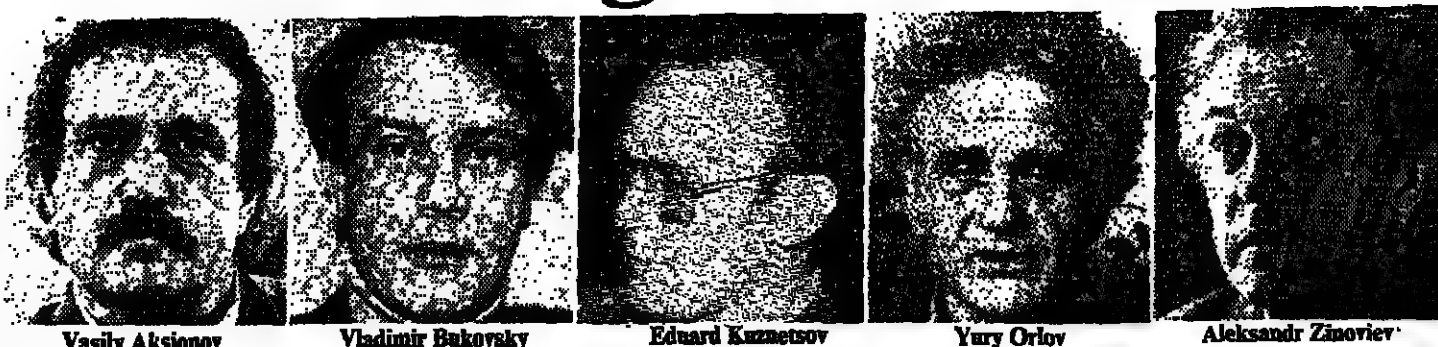
BARRY FANTONI



New town blues

Brian Tesler, managing director of London Weekend Television, has professed grovelling apologies to the burghers of Harlow new town over an edition of LWT's *Six O'Clock Show*, made there in response to IBA criticism of its regional coverage. Instead of entering into the spirit of Harlow's recent 40th anniversary celebrations, the production team caricatured the place. Danny Baker suggested that the only inhabitants were three jumble sales, while co-presenter Emma Freud pointed to a traffic light and quipped that the high spot of Harlow's day was to watch it change. Tesler, in a letter to the local council, admitted to errors of judgement and said he was shocked and deeply sorry about the angry reaction: "I hope you will accept our unreserved apologies."

Still waiting for real reform



In this article for The Times, ten Soviet dissidents — five are pictured above — claim that Gorbachev's changes are cosmetic and argue that only abandonment of communist dogma can set their fellow citizens free

Are Gorbachev's new policies the turning point we have been praying for, signalling the end of oppression and misery in the Soviet Union? Or are they a mere tactical retreat before the next offensive, as Lenin put it in 1921? The release of a number of human rights activists from prison, labour camps and exile during the past year is a welcome gesture but appears calculated to make a maximum public impression with minimum concessions. If the Kremlin is really undergoing a change of heart, why not declare a general amnesty for all prisoners of conscience? We still await a clear condemnation of the criminal use of psychiatry against dissidents. We have seen no progress on emigration.

The Soviet leaders say they want to end the war in Afghanistan. If so, why not simply withdraw their troops? If the purpose of delay is to leave behind a stable government, why not allow free and fair elections under strict international supervision? We can only conclude that all they really want is the appearance of leaving Afghanistan.

Most puzzling of all is the new policy of glasnost, or openness. Many are bewildered to read in *Pravda* the very criticisms of Soviet reality that only a few years ago would have been branded as "anti-Soviet slander". But, to some extent, this policy makes a virtue of necessity: it has become necessary for the Kremlin to maintain a huge and costly internal propaganda machine whose products are believed by few.

Real glasnost would involve genuine public debate in which all could take part without fear of punishment. Instead the party maintains its monopoly on the truth, the order being that for the moment truth must be critical of the regime. Such an order could be countermanded tomorrow.

Consider the posthumous "rehabilitation" of a few prominent Russian writers, such as Gumilev and Nabokov. We note that the privilege of rehabilitation seems to be conferred exclusively on the dead, who are guaranteed not to say or do anything unexpected; moreover, many other dead writers still await their turn.

The invitations to a few prominent emigrants to return home, the past "forgotten", is said to be taken a new cultural freedom. Were Soviet audiences allowed to choose for themselves, emigrant artists and writers would require no back-door negotiations with the authorities. One might forget the past, but how can anyone forget the continuing omnipresent party control — especially after "lasting freedom in the West"?

Finally, suppose that Gorbachev's most daring suggestion to date — free elections within the party — were to be implemented. Such a great leap forward would merely assure the Soviet people that the blacks now enjoy in South Africa: 7 per cent of the population would hold "free" elections for themselves.

Are we so accustomed to Soviet repression that the slightest deviation appears revolutionary? The fact is that the Kremlin could afford an even greater temporary "retreat" without truly altering the nature of the regime. It could reduce the excesses of the criminal justice system, allow more people to emigrate, and withdraw from Afghanistan. It could even publish *The Gulag Archipelago*. The Soviet Union could become as "free" and "capitalist" as Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, or China. The real question is not how far the current "thaw" will go, but for how long. For, unlike Hungary and Poland, the Soviet Union has no Big Brother who can come to the rescue if need be; and, unlike China, it has a host of small brothers to look after.

If the Soviet leaders were really intent on radical change, they would first have to discard the basic fallacy of Marxist-Leninist dogma. While doctrine ordains war against the "class enemy", there cannot be genuine peaceful coexistence with the "bourgeois" world, and peaceful coexistence inside the Soviet Union is no more likely. In the "historic struggle of the two worlds", Soviet citizens cannot simply be left to pursue their private lives and aspirations as ordinary members of the human family: they are

bearers of "socialist justice", "socialist culture", "socialist spirit", and now even "socialist glasnost". For the West to take the new policies at face value is to deal with the symptoms and ignore the disease.

National reconciliation cannot be achieved by releasing a couple of hundred prisoners from jails where they should not have been in the first place. The Soviet Union is a gravely sick country whose leaders have had to break with a 70-year tradition of silence merely to gain a little trust from the Soviet people and the world outside. It is they, however, who must learn to trust.

They must give the people the right to administer justice in proper courts, and they must learn to have enough respect for public opinion not to engage in their customary tactics of disinformation and manipulation. They must stop any further militarization of Soviet society and make glasnost a reality by revealing the full truth about the crimes committed by the Soviet regime.

If 70 years of doctrine have brought to ruin one of the richest countries on earth, the doctrine is clearly faulty. Gorbachev admits that no one in all those years succeeded in putting the country right; perhaps, then, the time has come to reject the system itself. As for people in the West, they should not so readily applaud Gorbachev for promising conditions that they would not tolerate for one moment.

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This article was also signed by Yuri Lyubimov, Vladimir Maximov, Ernst Neizvestny, Leonid Plyushch and Olga Zinoviev.

Tax cuts seem certain in tomorrow's Budget — but by how much? John Hoskyns puts the case for the lowest rates possible; Tim Congdon (below) urges caution

Don't flinch, Mr Lawson

A surprisingly large number of people want the Chancellor to keep taxes high. They may agonize about low pay, the employment trap, lack of job mobility, the black economy, the savings crisis and the brain drain, but under no circumstances do they support tax reduction as part of the cure. Their arguments are full of axiomatic statements which ought to make the more thoughtful reader say "Hang on — that can't be right". Here are some examples.

● "The UK tax burden is no heavier, and in some cases lighter, than those of other comparable countries". But the — mainly European — countries they have in mind turn out not to be comparable. Throughout the earlier post-war period they spent and taxed less than we did. As a result of these and other more sensible economic policies, they now have much higher living standards than we do. Only later did they succumb to similar political pressures for increasing public expenditure, and they are now as worried about excessive spending and taxing as we are. The countries now setting the competitive pace — the US, Japan, the new industrializing countries of the Pacific — all have much lower tax burdens than we do.

● "The money available for tax cuts would be better spent on improving welfare services and infrastructure". Of course welfare and infrastructure spending are important. But they are funded from tax revenues which are overheard borne by business. If a government goes too far in levying taxes to pay for better welfare and infrastructure today, the long-term capacity of the productive economy to grow (and thus provide greater tax revenues in the future) will be reduced. It was this political "short-termism" which did so much economic damage in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. Bootstrapping ourselves out of the



consequences of those wasted funds will take many years yet.

● "The money available for tax cuts would be better spent on reducing interest rates". No one wants higher interest rates, which make new investment less attractive. But the question is not as simple as it is made to sound. Because the private sector is an overall lender to the state, higher interest has the same effect as a tax cut on the private sector's aggregate income. For every corporate or domestic borrower, there is a corporate or domestic lender (eg. to a bank or building society) whose income — and thus contribution to tax revenue — is increased when interest rates rise. And for most companies, total annual debt interest will probably be less than the cost of one year's pay award.

● "Tax cuts will create a consumer boom leading to higher inflation". This "overheating" risk seems unlikely, with over three million unemployed. The British economy of 1987 is more

productive and adaptable, much less rigid than that of 1979. Of course, the faster the economy grows, the greater the danger of bidding up the price of scarce skills, but the proper response can hardly be to tax those skills more heavily than we need to.

● "Tax cuts would be socially divisive because they benefit the better-off disproportionately". It is true that the better off benefit most from tax cuts — inevitably, with a progressive (ie. disproportionate) tax system — but it would be perverse to forgo tax cuts to low earners out of an obsessive desire to prevent the high earners from benefiting.

● "Tax cuts don't make people work any harder". It is certainly unlikely that a cut of say 3p in the basic rate will instantly transform the people's attitudes. But the tax-cutter isn't saying that it will; he argues that economic behaviour and performance change at the margin, where people start to make different decisions — to change jobs, learn new skills, start

their own businesses — because suddenly the effort and risk seem just worthwhile.

● "Tax cuts will only give people more money to buy imports and thus destroy more jobs". By increasing demand, tax cuts will tend to attract imports, but these will be in addition to, not in place of, goods produced in the UK. Taken to its limit, the protectionist argument says that taxes should be increased to the point where imports cease altogether, whatever the damage to domestic demand. If a propensity to import suggests that home produced goods are insufficiently competitive, do we really believe that taxing their production more heavily is the right response?

These familiar fallacies follow from three implicit assumptions: that economic growth is achieved by, rather than in spite of, government action; that therefore, even in peacetime, the state has first claim on all personal income, so that after-tax income becomes a sort of rationed "gift" to the undeserving and ungrateful individual; and that to increase the size of such gifts can have no beneficial economic effect, and is therefore irresponsible even when it is financially possible.

It is difficult to argue systematically with people influenced by such ideas. All we can do is ask them questions. Do they think there is any connection whatever between a country's tax burden and its economic performance, between personal tax rates and individual behaviour? Are there any circumstances in which they would be happy to see greatly reduced tax rates for all? Do they think the present rates are about right, or would they like to see taxes raised? If so, by how much? Is there any limit? If so, why?

Sir John Hoskyns is director-general of the Institute of Directors.

Slow, or it's back to the old stop-go

Driving instructors do not usually tell their pupils to press on the accelerator if a car is exceeding the speed limit. In the same way, economic advisers should discourage governments from injecting extra demand into an economy if it is growing too fast.

In the early 1980s the government imposed on itself a Highway Code of macroeconomic management called the medium-term financial strategy. It laid down two separate speed limits, one on public sector borrowing and the other on the growth of the money supply (as measured by the broad measure known as sterling M3). On the whole the targets for public borrowing have been respected, but over the past 18 months those on monetary growth have been ignored.

The results are already visible in the behaviour of the economy. Loose monetary policy has been accompanied by simultaneous and related booms in consumption and credit. Last year consumption increased by 4.8 per cent, while the information available so far for 1987 suggests that retail sales for 1987 suggests that forward at a similar rate. Bank lending soared by more than £30 billion in 1986, implying a rate of

increase of more than 20 per cent. These and many other signs of reviving demand are splendid, in themselves, for British companies. They are undoubtedly contributing to the welcome reduction in unemployment. But the pattern of the economy at present bears too close a resemblance to the "go" phase of previous stop-go cycles. Nigel Lawson's Budget task is to ensure that the economy's gentle acceleration is not followed by speeding. If it does start speeding, the Chancellor (either Lawson or his successor) will certainly be fined by disagreeably high inflation in 1988 and 1989.

Lawson will not have an easy task dampening expectations. Supply-side enthusiasts at the Institute of Directors, the Adam Smith Institute and elsewhere are urging a large cut in the standard rate of income tax, while the Gadarene element in the foreign exchange and money markets is pushing for another 1 per cent reduction in interest rates. In a politically charged pre-election environment it would be a brave chancellor who resisted these calls to make good news even better.

But Lawson should resist them. It is clear that a large cut in personal taxation would add to

people's spending power and give impetus to the boom in consumption, while lower interest rates would act as a spur to borrowing and further invigorate the boom in credit. It is also clear that neither consumption nor credit needs more stimulus at present.

Supporters of lower income tax may argue that their case has nothing to do with the short-term problem of stabilizing the economy and everything to do with the long-term benefit to incentives and attitudes. This is a reasonable point of view, but they should recognize that few things disturb the smooth working of the market mechanism, and so damage both incentives and attitudes, as much as inflation. To cut standard rate by 4p in the pound, increasing personal spending power by £5 billion, would strengthen the already buoyant demand for consumer goods and give companies more leeway to raise prices. This seems imprudent as well as unnecessary. In any case, if the supply-side benefits from tax rates are indeed long-term, not much will be lost by postponement.

The arguments for and against lower tax rates may not be clearcut, but the argument against lower interest rates should be

uncontroversial. It is sometimes said that a clearing bank base rate of 10.5 per cent is high relative to an annual increase in retail prices of about 4 per cent. But this comparison lacks insight. Most people borrow not to buy the goods which comprise the retail price index, but to buy assets such as houses or consumer durables.

It is now part of middle-class psychology, almost as integral to the British way of life as roast beef on Sunday, to assume that house prices will rise by 15 per cent a year for ever. While such expectations prevail, an interest rate of 10.5 per cent is a puny deterrent to the demand for credit, particularly when many kinds of interest payment are deductible from taxable income. Indeed, there should be no surprise that the demand for credit appears to be insatiable or that it is generating rates of monetary growth not seen since the bad old days of the Barber boom. If the Chancellor is serious about laying the foundations in this Budget for price stability in the Conservatives' third term, he should be considering raising interest rates, not reducing them.

Tim Congdon is chief economist at Sheraton Lehman Bros International, London, and L. Messel & Co.

T.E. Utley

An amateur in South Africa

I have always had the greatest sympathy, amounting almost to admiration, for that stalwart friend of President Reagan, the former Judge William Clark. He exposed himself, you will remember, to almost universal ridicule while being examined by the Senate foreign relations committee in 1981 to establish his fitness to be deputy to Alexander Haig, then Secretary of State.

The committee held the view that it would be advantageous to Clark, in this new capacity, to have some knowledge of foreign affairs. They asked him, therefore, a few elementary questions. For example, could he name the prime ministers of South Africa and Zimbabwe. On both counts, the judge failed, and bore his failure manfully. Of the first he simply said he did not know; of the second that he could venture a guess but was not willing to do so. In spite of the great amusement he gave to the *biens pensants*, Clark was admitted to the administration and then, it seemed, proceeded to acquit himself admirably. His defence was that he could acquire these interesting bits of information as he went along, but that he was being employed as an administrator and man of general intelligence, not as some miserable computer crammed with ephemeral facts.

Facts are, of course, important to the making of political judgements. They are to be acquired, used, forgotten and rediscovered when it is necessary so to do. They are, however, no substitute for thought, and too much concentration on retaining them can be an encumbrance to thought. The essential facility with which education is supposed to equip a man is the ability to summon them up at short notice and arrange them with a proper regard to their significance. The media, incidentally, do a great deal to obscure this truth by running programmes like *Mastermind* in which contestants are invited to compete with each other in displaying their command of obscure information, thereby putting the intellectual establishment and the privileged classes generally to shame. I once knew a man who had won such a competition; his knowledge was obviously immense, his understanding seemed to me far from remarkable.

In free societies, politicians and journalists are in the business of being amateurs. They should cling to that status. They bring to their task a body of general prejudices, a few items of ill-remembered knowledge, and if they are competent, a faculty for concealing their inadequacies. If freedom is to be preserved, they must cling to this role and absolutely decline to become experts.

But alas, I protest too much. The reason for this is that I am about to make my first visit to

South Africa, a country on which I have already expressed many strong opinions. I think it would be natural to expect that my first experience of the place would bring about at least some small change of mind. As it is, I will return here in three weeks' time and announce, I hope with reasonable humility, some conclusions. These you will be disposed to dismiss as the off-the-cuff reactions of an ignorant journalist who has spent a short time examining a question of infinite complexity and immensely tragic proportions. Like Judge Clark, I will try to learn as I go along.

However, it would seem to be only fair to start with a general restatement of the prejudices from which I begin. These are extraordinarily gloomy. To my mind, it is virtually inconceivable that there is any discoverable "solution to the South African problem". There are some interests in politics that can safely be pronounced to be incompatible with each other; the demand of the black population for one man one vote and the wish of the white population (Afrikaners and English) to maintain not just their supremacy, but their very existence, come into this category.

I cannot conceive of any way in which a bridge can be built between these two positions. Benevolent liberal-minded attempts to build such a bridge (the actions of Dr Denis Worrall, for example), do not seem to carry much hope. President Botha's fine illustrations once again de Tocqueville's maxim that the moment when an authoritarian regime is in most danger is when it begins to reform itself.

The questions that remain to be answered are whether white supremacy can be maintained at all and whether, in terms of human cruelty, the cost of maintaining it would in any case be too high. The second question is largely qualified by the amount of human cruelty that would almost certainly follow from the abandonment of white supremacy in favour of majority rule.

If I were a white South African I am pretty sure that I would now feel that, in terms of morality, the supreme need was to maintain public order, that this need would justify curtailment of the freedom of the press and of civil liberty generally, and that the moment was wholly unripe for the consideration of constitutional reform of a fundamental kind. I am, however, an Englishman, and all these considerations go against the grain, though at present I can see no way of resolving them.

I hope my views will be changed by my actual experience of the place. Anyway, I have stated them in advance and, if I play the game fairly, you will at least be able to judge whether (as they say) "his holiday did him good".

Philip Howard

Why I'm dogged over Latin

Journalists are like dogs: when one barks, the whole pack takes up the howl, and for a week or two the world seems full of nothing but sentences for rape, say. Then the subject becomes boring, and the pack moves on.

Education used to be a worthy but dullish newspaper topic, concerned with organization and pay, and read only by the professionals. Suddenly we are all writing about education, and this time it is the interesting bits such as the curriculum. We all have a stake in the matter, since our only certain form of immortality is the children of the next generations.

There is a widespread feeling that things have gone wrong, not all of it menopausal grumpiness that the young don't respect our old grammatical verities or shibboleths. For once, the state of our education may play a part in a general election.

That is why I signed a petition the other day. Normally I never sign the things, however worthy the cause, for various reasons: improper for journals to take sides publicly, better ways of making a point, prefer to speak for myself than in herd, etc. Numbers do not necessarily justify a cause. Even if everybody in the world except one man signed a petition, and he voted the other way, he would not necessarily be wrong.

Our petition beseeches the Education Secretary to ensure that the full range of classics courses is retained in the reorganization of schools that is going on in Islington. That may sound a parish-pump matter for the main page in our oldest and greatest daily newspaper. But mighty principles grow from small seeds.

Highbury Fields and Highbury Grove schools are at present the only maintained schools in Division 3 of the Inner London Education Authority to offer a full range of classics courses to A-level. They shine like a candle in a naughty world. The classical languages will not be available at the tertiary college which is to replace their sixth form in 1989. This means that from then on children from a vast catchment area of London who want to study the classics will have to pay for it in the private sector. It is a depressingly elitist and unequalitarian proposal, which can only perpetuate the class divisions created by our education system. The best should be available for all our children,

whether they can pay for it or not. It is worth rehearsing some of the arguments for the classics for those who think of them as out-of-date accomplishments for old-fashioned ladies and gents.

1. Latin and Greek are the roots of western European languages. They are the mother tongues. It is impossible to understand English fully without some knowledge of



Chris Worrall

the classics. They help in every department of subsequent languages, from spelling to idiom to metaphor to deep grammatical structure.

2. Latin and Greek are the roots of western European culture. From iconography to politics, and from the theatre to philosophy, a western European with no knowledge of the classics is blindfolded in a garden of delights.

3. State education systems elsewhere, from Japan to the United States, are increasingly offering more classics. Surveys in urban areas of the US have demonstrated beyond argument that acquaintance with a fully inflected language such as Latin helps the backward and educationally disadvantaged to understand their own language. The demand for Latin teachers in the US has increased by 10 per cent for each of the past five years.

4. Classics helps you do *The Times* crossword (joke).

Of course our children must do more and better maths and science. But we must not revert to a Britain where only the upper classes have access to a full education while children of the *Untermenschen*, having to put up with carpentry, cookery, useful trades, and second best.

an amateur in South Africa

هكذا من الجمل



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

AGENDA FOR INQUIRY

Ten days after disaster overtook the Herald of Free Enterprise, it would still be unwise and unjust to attempt a full explanation of what happened. That must be for Mr Justice Sheen, who is preparing to lead the official inquiry through a haze of reports and speculation.

While the answers remain obscure, however, the questions have become a little clearer. That much is evidenced by the speed with which the Government last week issued its "advice" to shipping firms. Its demand that warning lights be fitted on the bridge of Channel ferries, to indicate when bow doors have been closed, reflects the immediate need to restore confidence in an essential service. It is in the interests of the companies themselves that they should respond quickly.

But the inquiry will need to probe more deeply into the operation of cross-Channel services. Some 45 roll-on-roll-off ferries transport 22 million passengers and more than 5 million vehicles between Britain and the continent every year. These ships operate in a market which is very competitive. With a threat from the Channel Tunnel hanging over them, it would be foolish and unfair to pretend that commercial considerations are irrelevant.

While there would seem to be no fault so fundamental as to merit withdrawing them from service, the ferries are acknowledged to be vulnerable in certain circumstances — like those which overwhelmed the Herald of Free Enterprise. If water floods the vehicle decks, rolling to one side with the ship's movement and maybe taking heavy lorries with it, it can tilt the vessel to one side and overturn it.

The Herald of Free Enterprise had had to flood its bow doors to enable it to load and unload on a high tide at Zeebrugge — not the easiest port for it anyway. It was therefore nose down in the water as it headed back out to sea, causing higher than usual bow waves to break over it. This should still not have caused any problems had the bow doors by then been shut — and why this was not the case is one of the questions for Mr Justice Sheen and his inquiry.

Given the extent of the disaster however, the inquiry must also make recommendations on what modifications should be introduced, not only to ships yet to be built but also on those now in service. While regulations already lay down that ships should have watertight compartments below the water-line, it has hitherto been argued that to impose upon ferry companies the need to build watertight bulkheads into the vehicle deck as well, would be impractical. It might impact to such an extent on vehicle loads that the operation would no longer be commercially viable.

This argument now needs to be reviewed. It is hard for the layman to accept that this is necessary so. There is a case moreover, for funding a special investigation into the engineering of movable bulkheads, which could be raised and lowered before and after loading. There must indeed be a penalty in terms of vehicle loads, but it need not be excessive — and companies might now find it inescapable.

A more efficient means of extracting exhaust fumes from the vehicle deck, thus eliminating the practice of leaving bow doors open while the atmosphere clears, should be looked at. So indeed should

the speed with which ballast tanks can be emptied to adjust to changing needs. Indeed the vulnerability of roll-on roll-off ferries in certain conditions at sea, has now been so tragically proven that more fundamental changes in the architecture of future boats will have to be considered at some stage.

The other area which needs close examination by the inquiry is that of operating procedures. The apparent lack of a standard system of communication between the crew responsible for closing the bow doors and the captain on the bridge is, to say the least, surprising. One does not need to prejudge this particular case to point out that familiarity breeds contempt. It is to combat this and other human frailties that routine checking procedures are employed in the cockpit of civilian aircraft and in nearly all military operations.

Commercial considerations cannot be ignored. Ferries ideally should be fast, inexpensive and efficient. It is in the pursuit of these objectives that ships' officers and their crews are under pressure to be punctual in their sailings. But public safety cannot be subjugated to any of these aims and if, as a result of this disaster, passengers have to wait a little longer or pay a little more to cross the Channel, then so be it.

Mr Justice Sheen is having to inquire into the circumstances surrounding an accident in which it looks as if human error was to blame. But a service of this kind which it cannot be entirely foolproof, must be as close to that ideal as possible. It is the future not the past, to which he must principally look and if there is a cost, then few should grudge it.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR PROPOSES

The recent Civil Justice Review proposals from the Lord Chancellor's department promise much. The review was set up to improve the machinery of civil justice by means of reforms in jurisdiction, procedure and court administration. In particular, its aim was to reduce delay, cost and complexity.

There were fears that penny-pinching administrative reform might lead to a lowering of standards. The proposals contain the clear warning, however, that the civil justice system should be reformed so as to maximize the quality of justice as well as efficiency.

Many of the review's proposals are both clearly right and long overdue. For example, it is recommended that there should in all cases and as a matter of course be full pre-trial disclosure of evidence, including the exchange of witness statements.

It is good to see the proposal that the upper limit for small claims should be increased to £1,000 with a new in-court arbitration structure to cover

cases where the claim is between £1,000 and £5,000. This is a welcome shift away from the gladiatorial conventions of a full trial, employed too often as a sledgehammer to crack small nuts.

The review's proposal for introducing greater incentives and competition into the remuneration system of the legal profession are more controversial. Already the Law Society is looking at ways of funding litigation and is expected to report shortly.

The idea of predetermined fees for certain classes of litigation such as divorce and personal injuries cases is both attractive and fashionable.

But any table of fixed charges must have sufficient flexibility to allow for the individual characteristics of each case. If the limits are too rigid, they will set a minimum standard of remuneration which all lawyers will claim, irrespective of the work involved, and they will discourage necessary effort over and above the perceived norm.

The review recommends

that the high court and the county court should either be amalgamated into a single civil court or at the least be more closely integrated. The essential proposition is that the county court would handle most types of cases and that only a limited range of disputes (in particular commercial cases) would continue to start in the high court.

There would be published criteria as to which cases should be heard where. The parties would then have the option of either themselves certifying that a matter should be transferred upwards (in which case they would be at risk as to costs if plainly wrong) or alternatively inviting a registrar to give directions for a high court trial.

This is not unlike the present commitment for trial of a criminal case from a magistrate's to a crown court. The review's proposed streamlining therefore has the twin merits of a bold approach and an imaginative borrowing from another jurisdiction of a system which is known by experience to work.

A EUROPEAN BREWHAHA

The German government, dismayed by the European Court ruling against its 470-year-old law governing the purity of beer, deserves a little sympathy — a little but not too much. To the man in the bar of the Rose and Crown, the idea of pure beer, free from obscure chemical additives, has an obvious if distant attraction. He would surely prefer (in theory at least) to live under a regime in which more than 1,200 breweries compete for individual and local tastes with a product that consists only of barley malt, hops, yeast and water. It sounds like consumer protection.

The European Court, however, saw it as a different kind of protection: a spurious restraint on most potential competitors from other parts of the European Community. Could the health of the German people really depend on preventing them from buying imported beers — with additives that had not obviously sapped the strength of other European nations? And if, as the German government contended, the average German male draws more than a quarter of his daily nutritional intake from beer, might not his diet benefit more from dietary reform than preservation?

National consumer protection laws, often for health or safety reasons, have been used far too often to prevent a common market developing

within the European Community. Britain has been more sinned against than sinning, but has not been immune from temptation — as the packet milk contest showed. As a result, the European Commission has come to view even the most venerable national customs with suspicion as a potential restriction upon trade.

That suspicion is usually justified. The promotion of free trade, and in particular a free market within the Community, itself promotes the interests of consumers more than any restriction can do.

Yet there can be genuine conflicts between the protection of the consumer's interest and the requirements of the free internal market. For instance, the need for general agreement to improve European standards delayed action on car exhaust emissions that was particularly dear to Germany.

It is also hard to understand the practical benefits of banning Britain's compulsory origin-marking laws as a breach of the Treaty of Rome. It was contended that these merely fed subjective prejudice against foreign goods and hence acted against freedom of internal trade.

Many a British manufacturer would beg to differ. In any case, education rather than law is the answer to

prejudice, unless severe social damage results.

Britain did much to promote the development of a free internal market in its presidency of the Council of Ministers. If the public is to be won over to the cause of breaking down barriers, however, freer trade should go hand in hand with the raising of consumer protection standards to the highest in the Community.

The effect should not be to harmonize them downwards. In a world of freer trade and greater choice, information is the consumer's strongest weapon and safest shield. Higher standards of labelling allow the public to choose without being fooled.

But the consumer is far from powerless even without the protection of the law. British beer drinkers have successfully rebelled against marketing strategies of national brewers. Germany's pure beer brewers will surely respond to the new challenge of consumer choice by promoting what was once taken for granted. In doing so, they may well find consumers elsewhere more appreciative of their product. This might even help to promote the pure beers already produced in other Community countries, including Britain.

Buyers are not always as wary as they should be. But it is generally better to inform consumers than to dictate what they may buy, in what is deemed to be their own

Towards a missile agreement

From Mr C. F. Maxwell III
Sir, Mikhail Gorbachev's style of leadership has created an atmosphere in which a missile agreement seems possible, indeed attractive. *Glasnost* has become the definitive characteristic of that style of leadership. Yet precisely because of his relatively liberal agenda Mr Gorbachev is unable to rely upon solid support in the Politburo and in the three key institutions — the army, party, and KGB — that support Politburo members.

It should not be assumed that entrenched, conservative interests in the Politburo and in the three key institutions will continue to tolerate Mr Gorbachev's progressivism any more than they did that of his reformist predecessor, Nikita Khrushchev.

There is much to be said in favour of a medium-range missile agreement in Europe. Removal of medium-range missiles would reduce the nuclear tension between the two superpowers and provide Mr Gorbachev with a timely boost in prestige in the eyes of his countrymen. However, his tenuous position as leader of the Soviet Union is a sobering reality.

Should the hardliners reassert themselves and replace Mr Gorbachev with one of their own, a missile agreement reached under the aegis of *glasnost* would be put in a very different perspective, particularly if the current Soviet short-range missile advantage remains.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES F. MAXWELL III,
Mansfield College, Oxford.
March 11.

From Mr Spatak Beglov
Sir, In his article, "The perils of a zero-zero draw" (March 6), David Watt claims that the Soviet Union wishes to maintain a conventional military superiority while eliminating medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe.

Not a single Soviet statement gives David Watt any reason for this accusation. Our proposals provide for quite different developments.

Five years ago the USSR took a nuclear no-first-use pledge, whereas the US and Nato have not taken one to this day. A year ago the USSR agreed to far-reaching military confidence-building measures, which were registered in a relevant agreement at the Stockholm-I conference.

Right after this Moscow and its Warsaw Treaty allies proposed early talks (in the framework of the Helsinki process) on deep cuts in conventional weapons and troops from the Atlantic to the Urals, and expressed their readiness to meet Western concerns over asymmetry in components of these forces. However, this unprecedented and promising proposal has not yet been seriously considered by the West.

If the West was really concerned over the problem of conventional cuts it would grasp at the proposal of the Warsaw Treaty to see whether the Russians are really sincere. But since this is not the case, one must conclude that the Nato leaders prefer to dodge the solution of this problem in order to preserve an excuse to continue the conventional arms race.

The Greenwich grant

From the Leader of Greenwich Council
Sir, You report (March 6) the statement by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, amending yet again the local authorities rate-support grant allocations for 1987-88.

In his original block-grant settlement for 1986-87 the secretary of state made provision for the additional costs which would fall to each London borough when they assumed former GLC responsibilities. His declared intention was that there should be no gainers or losers among the London boroughs.

The functions which came to Greenwich cost us an estimated £20million, for which, in his original settlement, the secretary of state allocated £22.8million. We felt this was unfair. We complained, but received no increase.

The London Borough of Bromley felt their settlement was unfair and complained. The secretary of state responded by proposing to re-allocate the grant, with the result that Bromley would receive

more and Greenwich less by £2.4million. Because of the intricacies of block-grant settlements, this has a real value of £3.8million.

Contrary to what Frank Johnson wrote ("The spark to set the shires aflame", March 6), Mr Ridley did not take the matter to the High Court. Greenwich Council sought a judicial review of Mr Ridley's action in withholding grant. The High Court declared the Government's action unlawful. This still leaves us substantially short of funding for our needs, arising from the abolition of the GLC.

The allegations made about Greenwich in the House are entirely without foundation. We have merely fought to keep the original allocation of grant, inadequate though it was, which Mr Ridley attempted unlawfully to take from us.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN AUSTIN-WALKER, Leader,
London Borough of Greenwich,
Leather's Office, Town Hall,
Woolwich, SE18.
March 9.

From Mr Garry Curran
Sir, I feel compelled to write concerning your article (March 7) which highlighted the plight of shopkeepers in arranging insurance cover for inner-city areas, such as Brixton, which have suffered social disturbances in the recent past.

As an insurance consultant situated in close proximity to the Brixton area I, too, have felt the rumblings of discontent from local businesses. Indeed, it is correct that many insurers are increasing their rates at alarming proportions and many more are declining to quote for new proposals.

However, my own experience is that many local businesses have made supreme efforts in recent times to safeguard their premises and this has been acknowledged by certain underwriters who in turn are pleased to consider well-secured, maintained and professionally managed businesses in a favourable light.

The disappearance of the agencies would accelerate the ongoing breakdown of the hospital service. I suspect even this Government would find that unacceptable.

Yours sincerely,
J. R. JAMES,
259 Lidgett Lane,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.
March 6.

Doctors on call

From Dr J. R. James
Sir, I read with interest your report (February 23) on NHS locums. As I proceed through my third consecutive night "on call", the question I would ask an administrator (if one was to hand) is, why has the NHS not set up its own locum agency? Until it does so (assuming, of course, that this is an organisational feat of which the National Association of Health Authorities is capable) it seems foolish to talk of banning the private locum or freezing their fees.

The private locum agencies are everything the NHS is not. They are efficient and they pay promptly and well. They are the only reliable source of doctors to fill gaps that the dwindling group of hospital doctors (myself among them) are increasingly reluctant to fill.

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Leeds, West Yorkshire.
March 6.

Policy problems

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Yours sincerely,
J. R. JAMES,
259 Lidgett Lane,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.
March 6.

Life in Romania

From Mr Alan. Belth, MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Liberal)
Sir, Richard Bassett's article (February 27) vividly conveys some of the grim reality of life in Romania and although he seems excessively sanguine about what the West can do, he is right to insist that Western leaders should cease to regard the regime as in some way preferable to those of other iron curtain countries.

Nowhere is the harshness of the regime more clearly shown than in the treatment of Romania's Hungarian-speaking minority in Transylvania, which I and others in the Liberal-SDP Alliance have raised with the Romanian authorities on several occasions.

Hungarian-language radio and TV broadcasts have been severely reduced, schools closed down, theatre groups intimidated and the minorities' right to worship in their own churches systematically denied. Cases of physical abuse of members of the Hungarian community are also well documented.

We should not forget that there is no sign of *glasnost* in Bucharest. Yours faithfully,
ALAN BELTH,
House of Commons.

Making light of ageing process

From Mr F. H. Pedley
Sir, Professor Raymond Levy (March 7) is welcome to use the words "old" and "elderly" for the purposes of his research if that helps him and others to define what they are investigating. But he is much nearer to the nub of the argument when he ("having accepted this fate") refers to the "Third Age" as being a more realistic, as well as more acceptable alternative.

Even then, however, he fails to make the crucial distinction. Those of us who belong to the University of the Third Age have no intention of falling into the *quatrième* age, which would more properly be defined as senility rather than the "old old". We intend to occupy our minds, and our bodies too, in such a way that the stimulus of mental and physical activity leads to wholesome fulfilment which is of our own making — because USA, as it is known, is an organisation run by its members, of which there are now some 10,000 in about 100 groups all over the country.

Perhaps, when his working life has to end, Professor Levy will join us — and we hope an increasing number of those who are retired will do. The University of the Third Age is, compared with other bodies, an infant; but it is a lusty one.

Yours etc,
F. H. PEDLEY, Chairman,
National Committee,
The University of the Third Age,
6 Parkside Gardens, SW19.
March 7.

From Mrs Valerie Langridge
Sir, I teach English to a class of Belgian *troisième* age pupils. The oldest of them, a sprightly 92-year-old, announced the other day, "In 10 or 12 years' time we shall all be quite fluent!"

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE LANGRIDGE,
24 Avenue du Manoir d'Anjou,
Woluwe-St-Pierre,
1150 Brussels,
Belgium.
March 7.

School transfers

From Mr Michael P. Glogg
Sir, I understand that the problems facing GCSE students who change schools in mid-course is currently being addressed by the board secretaries. The evidence so far is that their time-scale for resolving an issue of such key importance for parents and students is woefully unrealistic.

For some weeks now I and my senior colleagues have been attempting to respond sympathetically to the questions of one anxious father of a 14-year-old daughter two terms into the GCSE courses at her current school in Swansea. The parent has finally located a school that can accommodate her particular combination of upper school subject options, but has asked us what happens about any mismatches between her present board and the different boards under which we operate, either in respect of assessment procedures or course work completed before transfer which does not come within the syllabus of our own examination board(s).

Regrettably, all I have been able to secure from board secretaries has been the assurance that each case will be dealt with on its merits. The Secretary for the Joint Council for the GCSE has also assured me that "every effort will be made to ensure that children are not placed at a disadvantage". Fine words, but how does a parent assess the "cost" of any such proposed transfer and judge whether it would be better to keep their child in their present school, boarded with relatives, especially if five months' work in one or two subjects were to be written off if they transferred?

It appears to me that, in their haste to launch the GCSE, the issue of transfer has been downgraded by the boards. Do they have any idea of the vast numbers of pupil transfers in this 14-17 age group?

Yours faithfully,
M. P. GLOGG,
Deputy Headmaster,
Perin's Community School,
New Alresford,
Hampshire.
March 3.

Learning in play

From Mr H. D. McFarlane
Sir, I was somewhat amused to read (report, March 4) that a minister suggests that a 150-page book is necessary to stimulate interest in the financial world, or that the invention of a company game might have a similar result.

In my day — admittedly some 60 years ago — a very wise maths master simply told us to pick out three stocks from the *Times* financial page and follow their progress for six months. It did the trick. My interest in the stock markets has never vanished.

Yours faithfully,
H. D. MCFARLANE,
New Mile Corner,
Winkfield Road,
Ascot,
Berkshire.

In perpetuity?

From Mr N. W. Ayles
Sir, I have just re-discovered in an old file a 30-year-old £1 premium bond. How much longer must I wait before I win my first prize?

Yours faithfully,
N. W. AYLES,
3 Holmeadow Drive,
Sonning-on-Thames, Berkshire.
March 4.

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 16 1909

The Black Hand was especially active in America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. At one period it was estimated that 90 per cent of New York's Italian population were victims of the society's threats. Lt Joseph Petrosino paid with his life in the endeavour to crush the organization.

THE BLACK HAND IN AMERICA

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

It is no wonder that the assassination of Petrosino has caused a great sensation in New York, for the detective just murdered at Palermo was the one man in whose skill the American police trusted for the solution of one of their most pressing and difficult problems. The long series of Black Hand outrages of which this the climax must be carefully distinguished from such crime as might be expected to result from the temperament and traditions of the Italian immigrants in the United States.

The character of the "Little Italy" in American city will ordinarily bear comparison with that of the quarters of other foreign residents. And in every community of any size may be found many well-to-do Italians who have amassed considerable means, not by speculation but by steady business practices.

ORIGIN AND METHODS

It is this very prosperity of the reputable Italians that has stimulated the criminal propensities of the lowest class of their fellow-countrymen and has brought into being the terrorism of the Black Hand. Toward the end of the last century the Sicilian gangs which made their living by blackmail became aware that not a few Italians who had left their home country as peasants had acquired wealth across the Atlantic. Even the ordinary workman, they learnt, who could gain only 40 cents a day in Sicily, could make about four times that wage in New York. Accordingly they hastened to exploit by their familiar methods the rich field of the Italian colony in that city. It was not long before the American police found themselves faced by an elaborate machinery of crime far more ingenious and complicated than anything with which they had previously had to deal. The Black Hand... did not hesitate at kidnapping, outrage, and murder when these means seemed necessary to its ends.

A few spectacular cases will illustrate the activities of this organization. There was the murder, in September, 1903, of Derantoni, an ex-policeman from Italy, through whose efforts a number of members of the Mafia had been arrested. He had been pursued by the vengeance of his enemies from city to city, until he was lured one day into the hallway of a tenement building in Second Avenue, New York, and shot dead. Then there was the slaying of Salvatore Rosotto, the son of an Italian restaurant keeper. Young Rosotto had called in the police to arrest a Sicilian for attempting to defraud of their money a party of Italian miners on their way home from Pennsylvania. One morning when the father and son opened their restaurant they found on the glass of the front door the sign of the "bridge of death" — a perpendicular line, crossed at regular intervals by three horizontal lines, with small crosses in the two spaces at the right hand. The prediction was fulfilled shortly after when the accused Sicilian shot Rosotto in his own restaurant.

In 1907, on the very day when there appeared in the New York newspapers a cable despatch asserting that many Italians had lately returned to Italy on purpose to escape the Black Hand, there took place a significant incident in a New York Court-room. An Italian prisoner who had been convicted of kidnapping but had not been sentenced, conceived the idea that if he testified against his accomplices, whose trial was to follow, he might be let off with a lighter penalty... Before he uttered a word in evidence he happened to glance across at his confederate and immediately turned deathly pale. The confederate, looking straight at the prisoner already convicted, had placed the forefinger of his left hand in each temple successively, and had then, quick as a flash, drawn his right hand across his throat... From that moment never a word could be extracted from the man who had professed himself ready to tell all...

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN



BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only

THEATRE

LONDON

★ **THE ARKLEY BARNET SHOW:** Dr Evadne Hing and Dame Hilda Brackett present their refined comedy of ballads and bared teeth. Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, London SW1 (01-930 2676). Tue: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri 8.10.15pm, Sat 8.30-10.45pm, matinee Sat 5.30-7.45pm, Sat 4.10.

★ **BREAKING THE CODE:** A riveting performance by Derek Jacobi as the enigmatic Alan Turing, wartime computer genius and homosexual. Haymarket Theatre, Haymarket, SW1 (01-930 8832). Tue: Piccadilly. Mon-Fri 8.10.15pm, matinee Wed and Sat 5.30pm, Sat 4.10.

★ **DECADENCE:** Revival of Steven Berkoff's ferocious study of the decadent classes. Lyric Theatre, Limited season, proving very popular. Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (01-836 3028). Tue: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 8.30-10.10pm, matinee Sat 5.40pm, Tue 5.10-7.10pm, until April 25.

Royal Exchange Theatre, Cross Street (01-833 9833) Mon-Thurs 7.30-10.25pm, Fri and Sat 8.10.15pm, matinee Wed 2.30-5.20pm, Sat 4.50pm, Tue 5.20-8.10pm, until March 28.

SHEFFIELD: ★ **It's a Bit Lively Outside:** Joyce Kilmer's witty celebration of daily life in Sheffield during the Blitz. Crucible Theatre, 55 Norfolk Street (0742 769222). Mon-Sat 7.30-10.25pm, until March 28.

SHEFFIELD: ★ **Rat in the Skull:** Revised version of Rona Hutchinson's play about how an Irish bomber suspect came to be injured in a police cell. Crucible Theatre, 55 Norfolk Street (0742 769222). Mon-Sat 7.45-10.10pm, Tue 5.30, until March 21.

LONG RUNNERS: ★ **The Business of Murder:** Mayfair Theatre (01-829 3038). ★ **Cats:** New London Theatre (01-405 0072). ★ **42nd Street:** Drury Lane Theatre Royal (01-836 8106/7). ★ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1443). ★ **No Sex, Please, We're British:** Theatre (01-836 8243). ★ **Phantom of the Opera:** Sold out until October. Her Majesty's Theatre (01-836 2244). ★ **Run for your life:** Criterion Theatre (01-330 3216). ★ **Stepping Out:** Duke of Yorks Theatre (01-836 5122). ★ **Times Dominion Theatre:** 01-880 2845, or 01-836 2428.

FILMS

★ **Also on national release**
★ **Advance booking possible**
★ **Children of a Lesser God (15):** Polished version of the Broadway play, with William Hurt as the teacher of deaf adolescents emotionally involved with a former pupil (Marlee Matlin). Nominated for five Oscars (113 min). ★ **Canoe Follies (113 min):** A comedy set in the 1920s. ★ **Empire of the Senses (15):** A film about the life of a Japanese geisha. ★ **The Colour of Money (15):** Paul Newman returns to the big screen in a belated sequel to the Hustler. Martin Scorsese works hard wrapping up excitement as Newman tries to get back into the game, spurred by jealousy of a young protégé played by Tom Cruise (119 min).



As usual Eric Rohmer delights in dissecting the emotional states of his characters, but with *The Green Ray* he has taken the unusual step of allowing his people to improvise their dialogue. The result is just as psychologically exact as ever, with the added immediacy of a heroine laying bare the devices and desires of her own heart. Stepping lightly between Paris, the mountains and Biarritz, Rohmer once again uses the peculiarities of location and weather as deciding factors in his heroine's decisions.

★ **THE HENRIETTA:** Michael Bogdanov's impressive production of Shakespeare's Henry plays, with Michael Pennington as Prince Hal and Henry V and John Woodvine as Falstaff. Lyric Theatre, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (01-251 1821). Tue: Waterloo. Henry V part 1 Mon and Tues 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 4.30pm, 2.30-5.30pm, part 2 Wed 2.30-5.30pm and 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 3.30pm, Henry V Thurs and Sat 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 7.45-10.45pm, 2.30-5.30pm (specialist for all three plays 2.30-5.30pm, until May 2).

★ **SCOUTS' HONOUR:** Left-wing council inherits fascist money and farcical results ensue. Often hilarious. Lyric Theatre, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (01-251 1821). Tue: Waterloo. Henry V part 1 Mon and Tues 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 4.30pm, 2.30-5.30pm, part 2 Wed 2.30-5.30pm and 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 3.30pm, Henry V Thurs and Sat 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 7.45-10.45pm, 2.30-5.30pm (specialist for all three plays 2.30-5.30pm, until May 2).



When 57-year-old painter Ilya Glazman had an exhibition last summer, thousands queued every day outside Moscow's Manege State Exhibition Hall to see the 600 works, for Glazman is the USSR's most famous living artist. In spite of his popularity, he is not recognized by the Soviet art authorities because, it is claimed, he refused to adopt social realism, the Communist Party house style. Given the evidence of his work, there would appear to be little substance in this allegation. Glazman was not paid painting collective farmers hopping around the maypole, but his whimsical style and folkloric subjects are hardly anti-Soviet. If they were,

presumably his paintings would not be allowed to tour, as they are now, to major destinations in Western Europe. Liberal Soviet intellectuals do not like his paintings either, because they are not abstract. They have even accused Glazman of being a KGB agent because, despite official denunciation of his work, he travels freely around the world, painting colorful portraits of smiling others, Gina Lollobrigida and Mrs Gandhi and, above all, himself. Two hundred paintings and drawings from his prodigious output are on show from today in the Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, Barbican, London EC2 (01-638 4141) until April 26.

WIVES TEN YEARS AFTER (15): Three wives await their husbands during a Christmas bingle in Oslo. Sequel to the 1975 Norwegian comedy film *Wives*, with the same cast, and director - Agnès Brækén (85min). Cannon Tollymore Court Road (01-636 6148). Progs 2.35, 4.35, 6.35, 8.35.

THE SACRIFICE (15): Andrei Tarkovsky's last work, a scarily beautiful parable, shot in Sweden, with Erland Josephson as the intellectual hero facing the world's end (145 mins). (01-235 4225). Progs 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00.

SALVADOR (15): Vivid political drama set in Central America, inspired by the past adventures of photo-journalist Richard Boyle. Oliver Stone directs James Woods, Cuba Gooding Jr (128 min). (01-235 4225). Progs 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00.

THE COLOR OF MONEY (15): Paul Newman returns to the big screen in a belated sequel to the Hustler. Martin Scorsese works hard wrapping up excitement as Newman tries to get back into the game, spurred by jealousy of a young protégé played by Tom Cruise (119 min).

THE GREEN RAY (PG): Connoisseurs of Eric Rohmer's work will recognize both actress Marie Riviere and the predicament of her character as she is torn between two men who offer her the heart. Winner of the Venice Film Festival prize (98 min). ★ **Cherish Express:** 1300. Victoria Theatre (01-829 8665, or 01-830 6222). ★ **Stepping Out:** Duke of Yorks Theatre (01-836 5122). ★ **Times Dominion Theatre:** 01-880 2845, or 01-836 2428.

THE HENRIETTA: Michael Bogdanov's impressive production of Shakespeare's Henry plays, with Michael Pennington as Prince Hal and Henry V and John Woodvine as Falstaff. Lyric Theatre, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (01-251 1821). Tue: Waterloo. Henry V part 1 Mon and Tues 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 4.30pm, 2.30-5.30pm, part 2 Wed 2.30-5.30pm and 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 3.30pm, Henry V Thurs and Sat 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 7.45-10.45pm, 2.30-5.30pm (specialist for all three plays 2.30-5.30pm, until May 2).

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THE ARTS

Mounted marvels

Tomorrow afternoon (BBC2) wild horses could not budge. Anne will inaugurate the three days of Anglo-Irish warfare known as the Cheltenham Festival with two acts of populist piety. First she will ride the Grand National winner Aldaniti on the Cheltenham leg of his charity walk, and secondly unveil a statue to Dava Run, unique winner of both the Champion Hurdle and the Gold Cup.

Dava Run has since passed on to the paddock in the sky, and a similar fate was nearly befall the architect of his most luminous triumphs, Jonjo O'Neill, through bone cancer. Just before Saturday's Sandown meeting, Jonjo (Channel 4) attempted a profile of this superlative sportsman, his short-head victory over cancer and his new career as trainer.

Jump-jockeys are reputedly cast from pig-iron, but even this substance can break and Mr O'Neill has had his share

TELEVISION

of smashes. The trouble with this spirit of a programme was that its good intentions smothered the painful truth. As in the case of Aldaniti's jockey, the fellow cancer victim Bob Champion, his message was obliged to be "up". The only time its subject's puckish grin faded was when he lay sandbagged by medication on a hospital bed, bald from chemo-therapy and plainly above his riding weight. Perhaps the inclusion of the clip was the bravest part of all.

Horse-racing fascinates as one of the last spectacles in which gruff combines with nose and a modicum of good fortune to produce elemental tussles in fair competition. A new series on Channel 4, *Horses*, traces the development of Equus cabalists from the primeval ooze to the parade ring, taking in such milestones as the Scythian chariot and the Persian pony express on repeat.

With lashings of slow motion and lavish excerpts from terrible old movies of ancient Hollywood, Saturday's first instalment appeared to have the confidence of its cliché. The material, however, is parcelled out in awkward lumps, and there is over-much cutting between the presenters — the actor Ian Ogilvy and the horsewoman Lucinda Green — and the experts in their various natural habitats. Mr Ogilvy completed a standing place to camera just as the mounted Mrs Green wheeled to a halt beside him to take over the script's reins. One wondered what purpose this served, and (more damagingly) how many takes had gone into this pallid distraction.

If the price about *Horses* is no better than even, *The First Eden* (BBC2, yesterday) is already odds-on. David Attenborough is a past master of articulating his shots, of extracting maximum impact from his own conduct within the frame. Last night he added to his repertoire by reverentially lowering his voice in an Egyptian tomb and later, in a Mithraic temple, speaking at normal pitch to suggest disapproval of the bloody cult. When the rest of the field has faded from memory, Attenborough will be seen as the man who brought the natural world, intimately and informatively, into the living-room.

Martin Cropper

● We regret that David Wade's Radio review has been held out for lack of space.

Intimacy restricts effectiveness

Holly Hill reports on the New York opening of *Les Misérables*, and on mixed critical reactions to it

Shivering in 20-degree temperatures and a nasty wind, half of New York's Press corps huddled outside the Broadway Theatre, where John Napier's designs look less impressive. The *coup de théâtre* of the Paris slums turning into the barricades inspired little audible wonder at the performance I attended, probably because in less space it is not really awesome.

Both a gain and a loss is the repositioning of Javert's first solo, "Stars". It now comes just before the first student rebellion song, which strengthens the continuity of the story. However, if my memory is not faulty, I recall Javert

singing before a virtual curtain of stars, as if he were alone with them in the universe of his imagination. To me it was the most artistically perfect piece of staging in the show. On Broadway we see Javert standing in front of the Paris slums, with only a smattering of stars above.

The Thenardiers, nicely played and sung by Leo Burmester and Jennifer But, are less the fawning, audience-milking comics here. This is a huge plus: the adaptation of Victor Hugo's grotesques was tasteless. After being urged to



Frances Ruffelle as an appealing Eponine, Colin Wilkinson (rear) a splendid Jean Valjean

weep for Fantine and Cosette, the audience is supposed to forget that the Thenardiers drove Fantine to her death and abused Cosette terribly to have a giggle. Child abusers as comic relief? I wonder if even Fagin could or should win over audiences today.

Colin Wilkinson is as splendid as ever as Jean Valjean, and Frances Ruffelle repeats her appealing Eponine. Judy Kuhn has a lovely strong soprano as Cosette but, except for her and the Thenardiers, the American cast is weak vocally. Most of the other

THEATRE IN BRITAIN

Mugshot Cumbernauld

It is easy to imagine Glasgow — no mean city — as a backdrop to just the kind of Chanderlesque film noir *Mugshot* purports to be. Robert Robson, writer and director of this engaging if slight piece, has gone to a lot of trouble to get the right look, from the nicely judged cut-out set to the wide suits, tribbles and co-respondent shoes (designs by Lynn Aiken) and not forgetting that pool of light in which Bogart, or in this case Alasdair McCrone as Mac Marlowe, always seems to be standing.

There is a conventional, well worked out, whodunnit-style plot, with two mysteriously similar but similarly dead blondes, a gallery of instantly recognizable dodgy characters, and an excellent movie-style soundtrack which its composer, Joe McGinley, plays live.

The trouble is that neither the production nor the script is ever really clear what it wants to be. Are they prepared to settle for being a gentle and, in the best moments, witty

and well observed parody of the whole genre? Or do they want to take themselves more seriously and get into such murky areas as the intrusion of reality into people's carefully nurtured fantasy lives?

For despite the stylish production-values, the script tells us we are in the present. Despite Marlowe's wise-cracking asides and running commentary we are asked to take him seriously when he drops his transatlantic drawl and slips back into Glaswegian. The biggest problem is the wide divergence of acting styles. While Alex McSherry plays the Mr Big character as if it was Lear and Arturo Uhl rolled into one, Anthony Ventre and Alasdair McCrone play the two hoodlums with all the ham they can muster. Blythe Duff, who takes all the female roles, hits the note most accurately with a nicely deadpan delivery which is never in danger of being realistic but at the same time challenges you to say that it is not. Mr McCrone makes a tolerable stab at holding it all together from the centre with good timing and snappy delivery. But even he cannot rescue the *longueurs* in the first half, which needs some serious editing.

Robert Dawson Scott

A Smile on the End of the Line Orange Tree, Richmond

Michel Vinaver is currently a hot property in Paris, one of the crop of playwrights to have emerged in the Seventies who combine the traditions of the Epic Theatre with some of the innovations of the Absurd.

His many years spent working for a multi-national corporation have proved a fertile source of inspiration. The flagging fortunes of a toilet-paper manufacturer formed the stuff of his first success but, since that piece

might take eight hours to stage in its complete version, it is probably wise to introduce English audiences to his odd technique by way of this long one-act, *Les Travaux de la nuit*, translated and retitled by Peter Meyer.

The action is set — it might be more correct to say the dialogue is set — in the After Sales department of a company producing coffee-grinders. Three girls answer telephone calls from customers whose grinders have failed. Anne (Auréli Smith) is efficient but has a daughter who will not speak to her. Nicole (Joan Moon) has left her husband and resents the company's failure to improve her grading. Yvette (Lucy Durham-Matthews) is a temp whose miniskirt encloses a pretty little bottom like a couple of ping-pong balls.

The department head (Philip York) makes this wistful observation. The fifth character, Guillermo (Andrew MacLachlan), is desired by two of the women but quietly gets on with his job of repairing grinders.

This information we piece together from the scraps of facts tossed out — at first quite randomly, so it seems — by characters who interrupt each other, interrupt themselves and switch from flowery sales-talk to office gossip in mid-breath. The effect is extraordinary but Vinaver's technique reveals itself to be a marvelous instrument for presenting a sense of fractured, busy, unsatisfying life.

There is a linear development as crisis strikes the grinder industry, but the achievement of the evening — well brought out in Sam Walters' direction, though some cues could be sharper — is to create this network of lives from such disconnected fragments. It feels truer to experience than many a full portrait.

David Sinclair

Jeremy Kingston

Warm fidelity

CONCERTS

Dresden Staatskapelle/Davis Festival Hall

This glorious performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony — bereft of exaggeration or extravagance, exuding sanity and warmth from every bar — must rank among the finest conducted in London. It also emphasized the continuing excellence of the venerable Dresden Staatskapelle. And, since "Alle Menschen werden Brüder" in Schiller's vision, it was actually rather moving (for this naive idealist, anyway) that in the finale the East Germans should have formed so sonorous and unshakable an alliance with the London Symphony Chorus.

The orchestra, having played with massive security for three movements, the strings producing especially distinguished and unanimous lines in the Adagio, seemed to relish the sudden, powerful input of vibrant choral sound:

it appeared to renew them for delivery of a magnificently passionate coda. Four soloists who took more than usual care over blend and tuning (Karita Mattila, Alfreda Hodgson, Keith Lewis and Theo Adam) did their share.

But it was essentially Davis's triumph. No one has ever doubted his commitment to search without compromise for the truth of every score he conducts, but some feel that this occasionally leads him towards unduly prosaic or dull readings. Here, though, he combined fidelity with rich imagination.

His pacing, particularly of the Adagio and Scherzo (with the Trio slowed to allow the wind players to impart a little noble rusticity to the counterpoint) was Testamony good; he found some admirably natural-sounding balances (despite a few shortcomings in the brass section); and his rapport with the orchestra was outstanding. The Finale offered many instances of neat pickups and of subtle phrasing agreed not just in principle but in considerable detail, the cellos' recitative being an obvious case. An ode to joy in every sense.

Richard Morrison

Medici Quartet Wigmore Hall

In recent years the Medici String Quartet has experimented quite successfully with words-and-music concoctions. The latest is "Beethoven: The Kingdom of the Spirit", which mingles extracts from the quartets (some very witty indeed) with, and even under, quotations from the composer's correspondence, read robustly if occasionally clumsily by the actor Brian Cox.

Paras will witness at the very notion of Beethoven's quartets — especially the late ones, the Himalayas of the entire chamber-music literature — being chopped up to provide mood music for the master's rough-and-ready epistles. But there are, after all, plenty of opportunities to hear these works complete. If this sort of presentation helps some people to make more sense of notoriously difficult music, one should not object.

Nevertheless, when the gulf is so great between the music — where superhuman strug-

gles are heroically fought and subtly won — and the letters, which are (the "Fideligsten" Testamentary good; he found some admirably natural-sounding balances (despite a few shortcomings in the brass section); and his rapport with the orchestra was outstanding. The Finale offered many instances of neat pickups and of subtle phrasing agreed not just in principle but in considerable detail, the cellos' recitative being an obvious case. An ode to joy in every sense.

It was, perhaps, significant that the Medici reserved their most consistent and considered playing for the last item, Op. 135, the only quartet performed whole. Earlier, in extracts which ranged from Op. 18 No. 1 to Op. 132, there had been plenty of vigour and some imaginative ideas about tone-colour, but a certain casualness marred the articulation — as though even the players considered the music to be taking a secondary role.

R.M.

LONDON DEBUTS

With the centenary of Villa-Lobos falling this year, there should be ample opportunity to catch the best of the composer's works. Ernesto Bietti included the Five Preludes for guitar in his recital and they gave us not only the most captivating interpretative touches of the evening but also its most rewarding music. With the other-worldly high pizzicatos and introspective musing of the Third Prelude Bietti's sensitive playing met a score of equal invention. The only regret is that more of the music was not of this standard. The Five Pieces by Piazzolla sounded empty and overblown.

That reservation could not be made about the violin recital by Thomas Bowes. Not content with a long and taxing programme, he also commissioned a new work for the occasion: *Airs and Graces* by Jonathan Lloyd, an inventive short solo which cleverly uses

cross-string effects, the edge of the bow and other tricks of the instrument. The strong technique needed for this work was put to good use in the others. Beethoven's C minor Sonata, Op. 30 No. 2, received an imaginative, inwardly passionate performance, which found Bowes as convincing in the subdued mood of the slow movement as he was with the forceful, almost vicious humour of the Scherzo.

By coincidence both he and Anna Joseph chose to play the brilliant D major Sonata by Prokofiev, albeit in very different styles. Where Bowes offered fantasy and playing of many colours, Joseph was more strictly literal, clear in tone and energetic in attack. Her recital had begun with rather monochrome accounts of sonatas by Corelli and Beethoven. But with the Balade from Ysaye's Sonata, Op. 27 No. 3, for solo violin all restraining shackles were loosened: the double-stopping was fearless and accurate, the first sign of a spontaneity that was to last the rest of the evening.

Richard Fairman

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OPERA

Alceste La Scala, Milan

ney through slender hope, dejection, elation, self-deception and despair, it is the crucial flaw in the opera's feeble and perfunctory ending that Alceste has no chance finally to sing the joys of resurrection. A lack of flexibility in some arioso passages and a few precarious moments above the stage detracted little from Miss Plowright's overall accomplishment.

She received admirable support from Riccardo Muti, who extracted a vivid performance from the orchestra without ever having to resort to an over-inflated sound to make dramatic points. The chorus's funeral contributions were excellent, the jubilant ones marred by some superannated sopranos. Muti's conducting of Gluck's *Orfeo* at Florence some years ago will have prepared audiences for the interpretation.

Admeto's music was forced-

fully — in fact, forcibly — delivered by the strenuous Giuseppe Morino, replacing the previously announced Warren Ellisworth. Anne Sophie von Otter was an outstanding Ismene, although it was tantalizing to hear such a fine performer in a peripheral role. William Matteucci, a much admired Rossini tenor in Italy's smaller houses, sounded over-stretched as Evandro. Alberto Noli was an incisive High Priest.

Direction and design were both entrusted to Pier Luigi Pizzi, who set the opera in and around a simple but elegant white neo-classical rotunda — an apt reflection of the values closest to Gluck-the-reformer's heart. Pizzi's production was similarly restrained, but full of illuminating detail; only Alceste, clad in white in Act I amid black-robed chorus and confidantes, was not prepared to mourn Admeto even before he was dead.

Nigel Jamieson

● Rosalind Plowright is scheduled to sing *Alceste* at Covent Garden in 1989.

ROCK

The Cult Odeon

on its historical achievements. A new audience is craving old excitement, and the Cult are just one of many current acts who are only too delighted to give them what they want.

The present line-up developed from humble beginnings in 1982, when Ian Astbury formed a band in Bradford known as the Southern Death Cult. They now boast a hardcore following with the purchasing power to push the recent single "Love Removal Machine" straight into the charts at Number 18, but have not reached the broader market needed to get the record any higher.

Charging on stage after a lengthy taped introduction of "The Ride of the Valkyries", they seemed to have taken their visual cue from a strange assortment of stylistic reference-points. Billy Duffy and Jamie Stewart wielded big-bodied Gretsch guitars reminiscent of the Fifties, while

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Kenneth FleetSTOCK MARKET
(Change on week)FT 30 Share
1583.9 (-17.5)FT-SE 100
2000.0 (+1.8)Bargains
48407 (52723)USM (Datastream)
157.24 (+3.69)THE POUND
(Change on week)US dollar
1.5745 (-0.0125)W German mark
2.9160 (+0.0007)Trade-weighted
71.6 (-0.2)More debt
pressure
by Latin
AmericansFrom Bailey Morris,
Washington

The industrialized nations are under growing pressure to revise their faltering Third World debt strategy in the wake of payment suspensions by Ecuador and Brazil.

Although officials are confident they have prevented a "domino effect" of defaults, they acknowledge that new concessions are being considered to preserve the \$29 billion (£18.5 billion) debt plan proposed in 1985 by the US Treasury Secretary, Mr James Baker.

New proposals which, in effect, provide interest rate concessions to the large debtor nations are under serious consideration and will be discussed informally at the April Interim committee meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, officials said.

Financing techniques which convert debt to equity, shave interest rates on some loans and promote a broader role for commercial banks by encouraging them to make direct project loans in debtor countries, are being actively pursued.

In addition, the industrialized nations are demonstrating a new flexibility in their negotiations with debtor nations over novel approaches to debt repayments.

Last week the Reagan Administration, at the urging of Mr Baker, backed a plan by the Philippines to repay part of its outstanding interest with investment notes to preserve dwindling cash reserves.

Mr Baker and the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, together decided to back the proposal and this informal stamp of approval is expected to lead to a new agreement between the Philippines and its creditor banks.

For the first time, there is also serious consideration of a proposal to allow banks greater flexibility in writing off or "forgiving" part of their Third World debt, officials said.

This concept, the core of an alternate debt strategy proposed by Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey, was strongly criticized last year by both the banks and the governments.

This year, Senator Bradley is seeking to attach a package of debt relief measures to the new trade legislation under consideration in Congress. Among other proposals, Senator Bradley wants Congress to change the loan loss reserves banks must set aside against Third World debt.

His plan would provide a "grace period" in which banks would not be required to set aside reserves when debtor nations fail to meet payments. The impetus behind the new approaches under consideration by Western leaders is the strong reluctance of commercial banks to lend new money to beleaguered Third World countries.

USM Review 20 Analysis 21
Money Mkts 20 City Diary 21
Foreign Exch 20 Co News 22
Comment 21 Int Trade 22
Gilt-edged 21 Appointments 22

BOARD MEETINGS

● TODAY - Interim: Bailey (Ben) Construction, London & Strathclyde Trust, MAI, Pacific Sales Organisation, Renishaw, Finlake Australian Agricultural Company, BSR International, Cambridge Electronic Industries, Camellia Investments, Eucalyptus Pulp Mills, Kilgour Group, Meggit Holdings, Metalast Group, Process Systems, Pearson, Rockwell Group, Suntron, Sunlight Electronics, Suter Transport Development Group, WPP Group.
● TOMORROW - Interim: BM Group, Paterson Zochonis, Final: AE, Charterhall, Expanet International, Jameson Chocolates, Laing Properties, Rotunda, Systems Designers.
● WEDNESDAY - Interim: Armitage Brothers, International City Holdings, Logica, Scholes (George H), Pochin's, Sirdar, Tod, Final: Assam-Dooars Holdings, Ault

Markets seek £2bn off borrowing as well as tax reductions

City calls for
cut in PSBR

By Rodney Lord and David Smith

Financial markets are expecting Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to abandon targets for sterling M3, the broad measure of the money supply, in his Budget tomorrow. While accepting a more pragmatic monetary policy, they want a tighter fiscal policy with a cut of up to £2 billion in Government borrowing.

A cut of this size in the public sector borrowing requirement would guarantee a further fall in interest rates while still leaving scope for at least 2p off the basic rate of income tax.

Although markets took on a cautious tone ahead of the weekend, with sterling giving up some of its recent gains, money markets are indicating a cut in base rates of at least ¼ per cent.

The Chancellor has a presentational problem because any PSBR he is likely to set for 1987-88 will probably be above the outturn for 1986-87. Revenue in the present year has turned out to be so buoyant that many City economists believe the 1986-87 PSBR could turn out at £4 billion or even lower. This

compares with £5 billion for 1987-88 if Mr Lawson decides to use £2 billion of his scope for tax cuts to cut borrowing. BZW, a leading market-maker, said it would put more emphasis on how the PSBR for next year compared with this year's outturn rather than with the plan in last year's medium-term financial strategy.

News on the economy is, however, likely to please the markets. Mr Lawson will make it clear in his assessment of prospects that there are no nasty surprises in store, either on the balance of payments or inflation, should the election be delayed.

The Chancellor will paint a picture of vigorous growth for the economy, probably of 3.5 per cent this year, with the non-oil part of the economy growing by 4 per cent. He will also hold out hope for a continuing drop in unemployment.

The centrepiece of the Budget, a substantial reduction in the basic rate of income tax, has been well signposted. The consensus view among economists is that the basic rate will be reduced by 2p in the pound.

But the surge in tax revenues and the run of good borrowing figures recently point to the fact that the Chancellor's total room for manoeuvre could be as much as £6 billion. A 4p in the pound cut in the basic rate - to meet the long-term target of a 25p in the pound - is therefore within Mr Lawson's range.

Both the Chancellor and the Prime Minister have trailed the possibility of a cut in the top marginal rate of tax from 60 to 50 per cent, to combat the "brain drain." The Chancellor will defend any such tax moves against the accusation that he is favouring the rich by drawing on Treasury evidence that showed the 1979 reduction in the top rate of tax from 83 to 60 per cent actually boosted the tax take from higher rate taxpayers.

Other elements of the package are expected to include a go-ahead for tax incentives on profit-related pay; a lifting of the ceiling on loans eligible for mortgage interest relief from £30,000 to £35,000; and a raising of excise duties by slightly less than required to match inflation.



Nigel Lawson digging for a Budget victory at the weekend

Ladbroke sale
fuels takeover
speculation

By Cliff Feldham

The near £30 million raised by Ladbroke Group for the sale of its 20 per cent stake in Central Television, the ITV contractor for the Midlands, is bound to fuel speculation this week that it is clearing the decks for an important acquisition.

The disposal of the shareholding to Mr Michael Green's Carlton Communications, the television services group, over the weekend, comes within a few days of the sale of its local newspaper interests for more than £16 million.

Once again, the argument put forward by Ladbroke is that it wants to concentrate on its core businesses, although many analysts remain convinced that it is preparing a large takeover.

The sale of the television interests, which has been given the blessing of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, took place after lengthy talks between the two companies.

Ladbroke was cock-a-hoop about the deal. Mr John Harounoff, head of public affairs, said yesterday: "While we are very much aware that

the ITV companies are trading at peak revenues, the sale of our 20 per cent stake plus the final dividend represents a remarkable return on our investment."

Ladbroke paid about 120p a share or just over £5 million - for the shareholding, which it is selling at 578p a share. This is 90p more than the shares were standing when Ladbroke announced that it was in talks.

"This isn't a case of clearing the decks for something else. It is a good return on our investment which leaves us free to pursue our core activities," Mr Harounoff said.

Carlton Communications has been attempting to break into commercial television for two years, since the IBA blocked an agreed takeover of Thames Television.

It is the largest operator of television services in Europe and has gained a strong foothold in the United States through the acquisition of Complete Post, a leading supplier to the television programme market.

Midland decision
signals cutbacks

By Our City Staff

The sudden decision by Midland Bank to close its market-making arm of Greenwell Montagu Securities could be the signal for a wave of similar withdrawals or cutbacks as Big Bang begins to bite.

The widespread predictions before deregulation last October that the intense competition would send many market-makers into retreat has been confirmed by the Midland Bank experience - with trading losses of about £5 million. The full costs of closure will be much greater.

It all means that if Midland with its resources is unwilling to continue support for its equity-making operation then the future looks bleak for the other players.

For some time prominent City figures have been saying that the chances of more than 30 market-makers continuing to survive looked remote.

impact of Midland's somewhat dramatic withdrawal is for the other operators to cut their overblown - with the highly paid dealers first in line to lose their jobs.

Midland bought into the Stock Exchange by taking over the prestigious firm of W Greenwell. Now it is to concentrate on being an agency broker and dealer, a function similar to ordinary stock-brokers before Big Bang.

Midland has said that it thinks others will have to bite the bullet and take similar action.

There have already been signs of limited retrenchment with a number of firms cutting back on their equity operations. Robert Fleming stopped making markets in food stocks and BZW, the securities arm of Barclays Bank, abandoned making a market in television companies' shares.

Comment, page 21

Burton moves into
financial services

By Our City Staff

Burton Group, the high street retailing company led by Sir Ralph Halpern, is to take over the running of two share shops in its stores operated by Quilter Goodison, the stockbroker firm, as part of a move into the financial services sector.

"We are very serious about expanding this facility and hope to open at least 10 new

Sir Ralph Halpern
Insurance and mortgages

branches in our stores," the company said yesterday. However, it was being stressed that there was no acrimony in the parting of the ways with Quilter Goodison, the chairman of the Stock Exchange - and Burton is hoping that it will be able to retain the broker's staff employed in the share shops.

Quilter Goodison operates a third share shop in Truro, Cornwall.

Burton feels that the stores have achieved a modest level of success since they opened in its department stores in Oxford Street, London, and Bristol, Avon, two years ago but there remains considerable scope for widening the services offered to house, car and life insurance, unit trusts and mortgages.

Burton is endeavouring to negotiate a deal with Hoare Govett, the brokers, to provide the settlement services for the share transactions and is planning to apply for membership of the Stock Exchange.

Opec pact
changes
ruled out

Riyadh (Renter) - The Saudi Arabian oil minister, Mr Hisham Nazer, said yesterday that Opec's pact to stabilize oil prices at \$18 a barrel was being implemented satisfactorily and he saw no immediate need to change it.

He added that Saudi Arabia was producing about 3 million barrels per day of crude oil, well below its Opec quota of 4.13 million barrels but denied that the reduced output was a result of the pact.

Asked how long Saudi Arabia would continue to produce well below its quota, he said: "As long as all the Opec members adhere to the programme agreed in December, Saudi Arabia will continue to adhere to the agreement."

Last December Opec agreed to cut overall oil production by 7.25 per cent to 15.8 million barrels per day for the first six months of this year and abide by fixed prices averaging \$18 a barrel from February 1.

Mr Nazer said he did not foresee any need for new measures before the next scheduled Opec meeting on June 25.

He said Opec was producing below 15.8 million barrels per day and all members were abiding by its agreement.

The Saudi minister said he was satisfied with the extent of cooperation from non-Opec producers, including Norway, Egypt and the Soviet Union.

Dr Mans Saeed Otaiba, the oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, was reported yesterday as saying that Opec is not expected to take any retaliatory action against Britain for not cooperating with the cartel. Nevertheless, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia is expected to take up the issue when he visits Britain next week.

Ferranti scraps
bid for Ordnance

By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent

Ferranti, the defence electronics group, has pulled out of the bidding for Royal Ordnance, the state-owned arms manufacturer which is scheduled to be sold to the private sector by early next month.

By the deadline on Friday, offers of about £150 million had been submitted by British Aerospace and GKN, the companies always considered among the most likely to buy Royal Ordnance. No bid was received by Ferranti.

The surprise withdrawal by Ferranti means that just two of the four companies originally shortlisted as prospective buyers have actually made offers. One week before the deadline Trafalgar House said it would not bid because Royal Ordnance "did not fit in with future plans".

Ferranti would not comment yesterday on its decision but it is believed the company had considered making an offer of about £100 million and felt that the £150 million price-tag was outside its range. A statement confirming the

situation is due from the Ministry of Defence today.

Meanwhile, as the privatization of Royal Ordnance nears completion, union pressure against the sale is to be stepped up. Mr Jack Dromey of the TGWU will this morning meet Mr George Younger, the defence secretary, to petition and argue against the privatization. It is believed that the union, which has always feared widespread job losses following the sale, may be planning some form of protest.

A spokesman for Royal Ordnance said: "The union is not in conflict with the company. From the outset it has been emphasized that the privatization is the prerogative and right of the MoD."

Although the main concern of the government will be to secure the best price for the business, the Secretary of State is also keen to see some form of employee share scheme for the Royal Ordnance staff, in line with the type of arrangement which would have been available through last year's aborted stock market flotation.

Change in free
zones urged

A constructive change in the Treasury's attitudes towards Britain's free trade zones is called for in an Early Day Motion tabled today, with all-Party support, by Mr David Alton, the Liberal chief whip.

It urges, among other issues, changes in the VAT rules governing freeports. MPs backing the motion say the relaxation of regulations would not have a significant impact on government revenues.

British Shipbuilders plans specialist vessels
Competition by design

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The State-owned British Shipbuilders today launches three designs for specialist vessels that it hopes will help lift the troubled corporation above the financial water line.

The ships - a products tanker, a refrigerated cargo vessel and a scientific research ship - are the result of extensive market research and potential demands from customers over the next decade.

The designs signal Britain's departure from the league of leading merchant shipbuilding nations and her arrival as a producer of small, specialized and profitable ships.

And BS appears to be admitting at least partial defeat in the battle with Far East yards to produce big, standard cargo vessels.

On the opening day of Expoship, the international shipping and shipbuilding exhibition in London, Mr Maurice Phelps, the acting BS chairman, said the corporation's strategy had changed dramatically in recent years. There was no point trying to compete in all corners of the world against prices that could not be beaten.

"We have wasted enormous resources trying to compete. We believe we can develop products with a high intrinsic value that are attractive to customers. Our future lies in the building of high specification, high quality, high price, sophisticated ships," he added.

The new BS strategy of niche marketing will bring it into direct competition with other European shipbuilders, notably the big West German yards.

In addition to the new ships, it is planning, faith on its designs for other custom-made vessels, such as dredgers and ferries.

BS is confident the new computer-designed ships, based on modular construction, will find ready markets, although it says it cannot quantify potential orders.

However, in the case of the reefer, called a Reeflex, BS has been discussing orders with six British and European owners, one of which may order two ships. Prices for the three designs - the products carrier is called Tango, while Questor is the research vessel

- will be announced at Expoship.

Trading losses at BS in 1985-86 rose to £137 million from £68 million the previous year but the huge book loss of £248 million on the enforced privatization of the warship yards, plus other provisions, boosted the total loss to a record £430 million.

The shipbuilding workforce has fallen from 35,000 in 1977 to less than 10,000. It is a sign of the amount of capacity streamlining, much of it carried out by Mr Graham Day, the previous chairman, that Mr Phelps was able to say today: "One or two good orders now and our capacity is full for a couple of years."

Latest figures on world shipbuilding underline the overcapacity that still bedevils the industry. The world order book fell by 9.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year and has dropped consistently for every quarter in the last five years.

The United Nations Committee on Trade and Development estimates there is a 25 per cent oversupply of tonnage.

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USM REVIEW

RMG could be drawing up a bid

Speculation was growing on the Unlisted Securities Market last week that Ronald Martin Groome, supplier of school, commercial and gift stationery, was thinking of a full bid for the fully-listed Platinum, manufacturer of pens, writing instruments and school equipment.

The speculation increased after both groups announced a new marketing venture. They have pooled their resources and produced a new back-to-school range of stationery called the "Little Scholar".

The range will be produced under the Platinum label for distribution to 12,000 high street customers and hypermarkets.

Ronald Martin Groome came to the USM in November, 1985, at 90p a share and has enjoyed some strong profit growth. Pretax profits for the year to December 31, 1985 were more than doubled at £904,000 and the figures due soon should make pleasant reading also.

The price closed on Friday at a peak of 190p. It could be argued that Mr Maurice Miller and Mr Jeffrey Santhouse view their business through rose-coloured glasses, but Miller & Santhouse, Britain's only publicly-quoted optician, is certainly looking for some strong growth over the next few years.

It joined the USM in October last year after a placing via Capel-Cure Myers, the broker, of 1.42 million shares at 105p.

On Friday, the price closed at 280p - just 10p below its all-time high - and shows few signs of drifting lower.

Last week, the group pleased the market with interim figures to December 31 showing pretax profits climbing from £150,000 to £251,000, on turnover up from £1.27 million to £2.36 million. Mr Miller described trading as buoyant and ahead of expectations for the time of year.

The group should be capable of profits for the full year of almost £600,000, compared with £362,000 in 1986.

A further six new stores will be opened before the year-end in June, raising the total number of outlets to 33 with most in the Midlands and the North.

Miss Sally White, the retail sector analyst, has put Campbell & Armstrong, the Manchester-based shopfitter, which has flourished at about its placing price level of 110p a share since its USM flotation last June, on her "buy" list.

Campbell's shares have drifted as low as 78p since its debut and closed at a stagnant 120p on Friday. But they could be set to make up for lost time.

It has orders worth £3.5 million on its books, compared with just £1 million for the

same period last year; it has about £500,000 in the bank, with no gearing, and has a string of acquisitions lined up. Details of the first acquisition, not yet signed and sealed, should be announced in about three weeks, and while Mr Brian Mackerness, the managing director, refuses to specify its line of business, he says it will be in a related field.

"We have been looking for companies in shopfitting, point-of-sale material and other compatible areas," he says. "And everything we are

looking at has cash in the bank and no gearing."

Two other acquisitions should also be completed before Christmas. But because of Campbell's strong financial position this burst of takeover activity is unlikely to necessitate a cash call on shareholders.

The company is sure sufficient money can be raised "for the foreseeable future" by way of a vendor placing with institutions.

The company's financial year closes at the end of this month and its results are

expected in June. Its profits should comfortably exceed market expectations of £1 million, compared with £710,000 pretax last year.

Mr Ray Chambers, a non-executive director, who together with Mr Jack Reading, a fellow non-executive director, owns 61 per cent of Campbell via Broom House, an industrial holding company, hopes it will be ready to progress to the main market by the end of 1988.

"It needs to be three or four times its present size before

moving up and we should reach that level by then," he says.

Recent beneficiaries of the Campbell faciliti are Curry's Victoria Wine, Littlewoods and stores in the Sears group. The company is also trading for contracts to do up branches of Midland Bank.

"Midland wants to redesign 30 or 40 branches this year and 400 next year," says Mr Chambers. "All the other banks are bound to follow."

Michael Clark



Head men meet in stationary link-up: David Looming of Platinum (left) and RMC's Martin Abrahamson

Expanding Campbell looks for good fits

Strong hopes for new Korean fund

By Colin Campbell

A new \$30 million (£19 million) fund to invest specifically in Korea - the Korea Europe Fund - is being launched in London today, and later this week in Europe, by Baring Brothers and Seangyong Investment & Securities, a leading Korean stockbroker firm.

The Korean authorities have traditionally limited foreign investment opportunities to a handful of vehicles, and for this fund only three million shares at \$10 each, requiring a minimum investment of \$5,000, have been authorized.

The shares are expected to open at a substantial premium when dealings start on the London Stock Exchange. A comparable share - the

United States-based Korea Fund - currently trades at \$58 a share against a net asset value of \$20.

The launch is aimed primarily at institutions in London, Frankfurt, Brussels, Geneva and Paris.

The investment managers, while acknowledging some political risk, believe Korea is a fast-developing economy and that its stock market is promising. The 1986 average p/e ratio on the Korean stock exchange was nine, compared with 19 for Taiwan. The comparable ratios for other South-east Asian markets were: Hong Kong 18.7, Singapore/Malaysia 30, and Japan 46.5.

THIRD MARKET

Capitalization	Company	Price on Friday	Weekly Change
6.150535m	Abelsco Group	280	n/c
4.837832m	Aberdeen Am Petrol	52 1/2	-5
3.538080m	Allied Insurance	112	-5
3.805960m	Catalyst Commercial	45	n/c
11.85692m	Corton Beach	64 1/2	+1/2
22.68000m	Eglinton Oil Ireland	40	-7
1.313831m	Do. Warrants	23	-5
2.544322m	Publishing Holdings	25	-5
7.394668m	Theme Holdings	51 1/2	+4 1/2
5.356190m	Unit Group	119	n/c

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

sterling index compared with 1975 was down at 71.6 (city's range 71.5-71.8).

OTHER STERLING RATES		DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
Argentine austral	2.432-2.437	Belgium	1.430-1.430
Australian dollar	2.375-2.377	Canada	2.140-2.140
Banquet dollar	0.5915-0.5925	France	2.230-2.230
Brazil cruzeiro	5.288-5.288	Germany	1.525-1.525
Cypriot pound	0.7029-0.7030	Italy	1.320-1.320
Danish krone	7.1210-7.1210	Japan	1.620-1.620
Deutsche mark	0.1150-0.1150	Netherlands	1.620-1.620
Dracma	12.520-12.527	Denmark	6.900-6.900
Hong Kong dollar	20.25-20.45	West Germany	1.520-1.520
Indian rupee	0.4300-0.4300	Sweden	1.520-1.520
Kuwait dinar	3.985-3.987	Switzerland	2.020-2.025
Malaysian dollar	1.660-1.660	France	1.600-1.600
Mexico peso	1.225-1.225	Italy	1.315-1.315
New Zealand dollar	0.695-0.695	Singapore (S\$)	7.015-7.020
Saudi Arabian riyal	3.754-3.754	Hong Kong	1.520-1.520
Singapore dollar	3.754-3.754	Portugal	141.50-142.40
S. Africa rand (nom)	3.281-3.281	Spain	165.00-165.00
U.A.E. dirham	3.700-3.700	Austria	13.00-13.00

Rates supplied by Deutsche Bank, NYPEX and Ecol.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
March 10	March 10	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
N York 1.5740-1.5765	1.5740-1.5765	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
London 2.0754-2.0844	2.0754-2.0844	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
Amsterd 2.2913-2.2977	2.2913-2.2977	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
Brussels 60.23-60.65	60.23-60.65	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
Frankfurt 10.3520-11.0280	10.3520-11.0280	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
Paris 1.020-1.022	1.020-1.022	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
Madrid 2.143-2.154	2.143-2.154	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
Stockholm 22.18-22.55	22.18-22.55	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
Oslo 20.4-20.45	20.4-20.45	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
Algeria 20.9-20.92	20.9-20.92	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
Paris 20.9-20.92	20.9-20.92	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
Oslo 20.9-20.92	20.9-20.92	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
Stockholm 20.9-20.92	20.9-20.92	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
Oslo 20.9-20.92	20.9-20.92	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
Stockholm 20.9-20.92	20.9-20.92	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
Oslo 20.9-20.92	20.9-20.92	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm
Stockholm 20.9-20.92	20.9-20.92	0.58-0.58pm	1.30-1.35pm

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %		TREASURY BILLS	
1 month	5 1/2-5 3/4	1 month	5 1/2-5 3/4
3 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	3 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
6 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	6 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
12 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	12 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
18 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	18 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
24 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	24 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
30 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	30 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
36 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	36 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
42 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	42 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
48 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	48 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
54 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	54 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
60 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	60 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
66 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	66 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
72 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	72 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
78 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	78 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
84 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	84 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
90 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	90 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
96 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	96 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
102 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	102 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
108 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	108 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
114 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	114 months	5 1/2-5 3/4
120 months	5 1/2-5 3/4	120 months	5 1/2-5 3/4

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No attack planned by brewers

"Given the will, effort and persistence there is no reason why the UK should continue humbly to stand sixth or seventh among the Soviet

A leading Finnish industrialist, Mr Risto Kangas-Ikkala, president of the Finn-Stroi construction group, said that work by by Finland included pulp and paper mills, hotel projects in Moscow and Leningrad, an eye clinic

Trade between Finland and Russia is covered by five-year agreements with payments made through joint clearing accounts which require a very high domestic content of Finnish export.

Guinness and Bass, both of which export beers to Germany, expect increased sales there.

943.5m	Planning	MarCom	188	+1
944.4m	Planning	Overseas	184	-1
71.7m	Planning	Tech	182	-2
108.0m	Planning	Unusual	167	-1
946.5m	For Col		114	+1
88.8m	GBC Capital		229	-1
74.1m	GT Japan		228	+2
78.1m	General	Doms	376	-1
77.3m	General	Frnds	363	..
89.8m	Gawpaw	Stock	193	..
783.4m	Globe	Int	191	+1
126.6m	Growth	Int'l	189	-1
940.7m	Growth	Oricat	288	-2
318.8m	Growth	Strategy	384	+2

[illegible]

400	● +2	7.1	1.7	..	56.0m
405	..	..	..	..	54.5m
410	..	..	..	..	53.0m
415	● -1	5.9	2.3	47.5	51.5m
420	..	..	..	..	50.0m
425	..	..	..	..	48.5m
430	● +5	9.6	2.1	58.7	47.0m
435	..	2.85	3.0	54.9	45.5m
440	..	3.1	2.1	54.9	44.0m
445	..	8.4	7.0	..	42.5m
450	..	12.5	2.0	59.9	41.0m
455	● +5	7.5	2.1	61.4	39.5m
460	..	27.9	3.5	41.4	38.0m
465	..	4.35	3.9	40.4	36.5m
470	..	2.0	2.0	71.7	35.0m

Comptroller	122	+4	3.3	2.5	17
Commissioner	938	•	18.7	1.7	24
Post Co	745	•	7.1	4.8	15
St Management	228	+1	4.1	1.8	25
County District	514	•	1.8	1.5	25
Department Admin	514	•	22.1	1.7	25
City	211	•	12.9	6.1	9
MAI	518	+12	4.8	4.1	11
M & G	285	+2	7.5	2.8	18
Merchandise Finance	333	•	20.0	6.0	8
Public Fin The	740	+1	0.8	0.8	•
Do Warrants	71	+1	•	•	•
State New Court	170	+10	10.0	8.8	8

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

[illegible]

APPOINTMENTS

C.T. Bowring (Insurance);

Royal Bank of Scotland	10.50%
TSB	10.50%
Citibank NA	10.50%

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	11.00%
Adam & Company	10.50%
BCCI	10.50%
Citicbank Savings	12.45%
Consolidated Crds	10.50%
Co-operative Bank	10.50%
C. Hoare & Co	10.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	10.50%
Lloyds Bank	10.50%
Nat Westminster	10.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	10.50%
TSB	10.50%
Citicbank NA	10.50%

What kind of company sees solutions when others see problems?

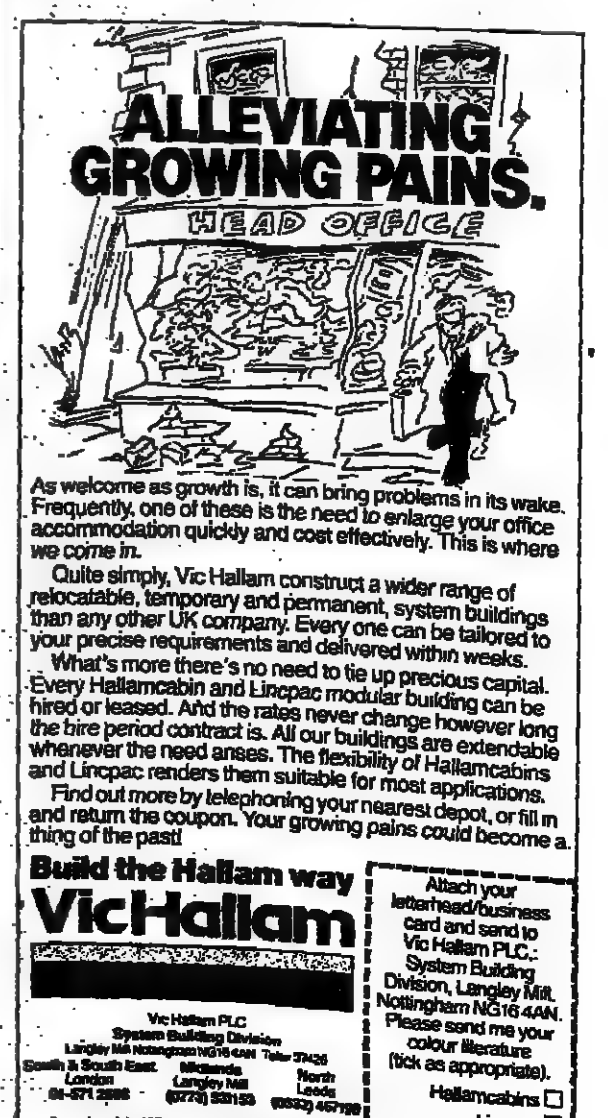
Since the early 70's we at BT Rolatruc have been designing, developing and installing such systems. Bringing to our customers the benefits of advanced technology, implemented with expert design and planning. Creating automated materials handling systems that dramatically increase a company's productivity and handling efficiency. One particular handling system we designed and installed reduced the lead time for parts issued to the production line from 4 days to 14 minutes.

BT Rolatruc have pioneered many of the latest innovations in automated handling systems, developing design concepts and equipment that consistently produce the lowest cost per case handled. A fact that has been readily acknowledged and recognised by the increasing number of top British Companies who choose BT Rolatruc to provide the efficient solution to their handling problems.

BT Rolatruc

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RT Rotronic Limited, Sirdling Road, Slough, Berks SL1 4SY. Telephone 0753 30551. Telex 847586.



COMPANY NEWS

WORLD OF LEATHER: Dividend 3p. Figures in £000s. Turnover 11,617 (9,136), profit before tax 1,252 (1,224), tax 454 (517), extraordinary items 66 (nil). Earnings per share 66 (nil). Extraordinary items in the provision for the loss on a loan for a former US associated company.

ST. DAVID'S INVESTMENT TRUST: Interim dividend 2.5p. Income from fixed asset investments for the six months to January 31, 1986: franked £151,926 (£106,709); unfranked £23,785 (£10,113). Interest receivable £14,562 (£13,505). Administration expenses £46,444 (£35,441). Pre-tax revenue £143,820 (£94,886). Tax £41,860 (£27,681). Earnings per share 2.49p (£2.38p). Valuation of investments £8,737,371 (£7,893,658). Net current assets £412,996 (£196,534), making £9,140,367 (£8,090,192). Net asset value per share 100.24p (£100.25p); per capital share 122.69p (£107.07p).

GENERAL MINING LTD: Final dividend 150 cents, making 230c (195c) for 1986. Figures in £000s. Source income after exploration costs and amortisation 937.2 (967.3). Income before tax 70.4 (485.2). Tax 79.2 (82.2). Consolidated income 907.5 (350.7). Equity accounted income 907.5 (350.7). Extraordinary items 254.0 (8.5). Dividend payable April 16.

SANDVIE AB: Dividend 3kr 50 (2.62). Figures for 1986 in Skr millions. Invoiced sales 12,721 (12,518). Cost of production, sales and administration 10,472 (10,376). Scheduled depreciation 463 (474). Trading profit 1,786 (1,668). Financial earnings and expenses, net debit 95 (200). Exchange differences on loans 33 (142). Non-recurring earnings and expenses debit 30 (1). Employees' share of profit - loss 16 (nil). Appropriations 597 (327). Profit before tax 1,081 (1,282). Tax 514 (344). Minority interest debit 50 (40).

BARRACK MINES: Unaudited net profit soared to Aus\$6.14 million in the half-year to end-December (Aus\$5.00 million) after record December quarter gold production of 15,676 ounces from Barrack's 66 per cent owned Horseshoe Lights Mine, Western Australia. The company will make a two-for-one bonus issue from the share premium reserve to increase issued capital to 60 million shares. Net profit, after depreciation and amortisation, was Aus\$3.50 million, (Aus\$2.12 million). Interest income (Aus\$1.13 million). Earnings per share 31.41 cents (7.96c). Operating revenue Aus\$20.36 million (Aus\$13.38 million).

WAR JACOB: Final dividend 4.7p, making 7p (6p) on old capitalisation for 1986. Figures in £000s. Turnover 38,448 (38,096). Trading profit before interest 2,622 (226). Interest 511 (559). Profit before tax 166 (127). Extraordinary items debit (431). Earnings per ordinary share 20.9p (7.1p).

CSC INVESTMENT TRUST: Results for the year to December 31. Dividend 5.75p (5.75p), making 9.35p (9.35p). Income from fixed assets investments: franked income listed UK £233,561 (£252,488), unfranked income listed UK £23,843 (£29,128); unlisted UK £22,288 (£13,137), making £280,692 (£335,753). Revenue after charges £235,624 (£236,737). Tax on revenue £62,722 (£75,339). Valuation of investments £3,777,701 (£3,304,434). Net asset value 154.12p (142.91p). Earnings per share 10.51p (9.81p).

ANTLER: Results for the year ended December 31 (comparisons restated). Dividend 2p, payable May 21. Figures in £000s. Turnover 10,043 (9,594). Operating profit 1,721 (1,414). Extraordinary items debit 38 (nil). Profit attributable to shareholders 518 (417). Earnings per share 9.8p (7.1p).

STOCKHOLDERS FAR EAST INVESTMENTS INC: Results for the year to December 31. Interim dividend 50.015. Investment at valuation \$40,720,684 (\$33,633,515). Net current assets \$1,718,074 (\$148,478). Total net resources \$42,438,758 (\$33,781,993). Dividends and interest receivable \$649,302 (\$520,480). Expenses (\$392,980). Earnings \$115,514 (\$127,500). Earnings per share \$0.014 (\$0.016).

ANGLICAN CORP: Final dividend 135 cents, making 190c (180c) for 1986, payable May 8. Figures in £000s. Turnover 3,138 (2,599). Earnings 443 (268) before tax of 76 (42) and minority interest of 96 (53). Earnings per share 51c (34c).

LYSANDER PETROLEUM: Results for the half-year to September 30. Turnover £96,135 (£115,648). Loss before tax £156,595 (£36,208 loss). No tax (nil). Loss per share 0.97p (0.5p).

Solicitor's responsibility for court undertakings

Udall v Capri Lighting Ltd (re: Richard Oxley Whiting, a solicitor)
Before Lord Justice Kerr, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Balcombe
(Judgment March 12)

Where a solicitor gave an undertaking on behalf of his client during the course of proceedings and subsequently the undertaking became impossible to perform, the solicitor could not realistically be expected to carry it out. If the court had evidence of impossibility it would not make an order.

On non-performance of a solicitor's undertaking the court, in exercise of its inherent jurisdiction, could exercise its compensatory jurisdiction. Although the jurisdiction was compensatory and not punitive it remained a disciplinary sanction.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowed an appeal by Mr Richard Oxley Whiting, a solicitor, acting for Capri Lighting Ltd, the defendant in the action by the plaintiff, Mr Robert Alan Udall (trading as Udall Steel Metal and Co), from an order, dated December 1985, of Sir Neil Lawson, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court.

The judge ordered that Mr Whiting should carry out his undertaking given in the course of the proceedings that the directors of the defendant would give second charges on their personal properties to meet the plaintiff's liability towards Mr Udall.

The court would not make any order in vain: *New Brunswick et al v Muggenidge* (1859) 4 Drew 686, 699 cited and applied by Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor, in *Tito v Waddell* (No 2) (1977) Ch 106, 326.

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NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of Pacific Lighting Overseas Finance, N.V.

8% Guaranteed Debentures Due April 15, 1988

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the provisions of Article Three of the Indenture dated as of April 15, 1973, among Pacific Lighting Overseas Finance, N.V. (the "Company"), Pacific Lighting Corporation as Guarantor, and Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association, as Trustee, \$2,400,000 principal amount of the Company's 8% Guaranteed Debentures due April 15, 1988 (the "Debentures") that are presently outstanding under the Indenture will be redeemed on April 15, 1987 (the "redemption date") at a redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued interest to the redemption date.

As of the date of this notice, there are \$2,400,000 aggregate principal amount of Debentures outstanding.

Debentures to be redeemed are numbered as follows:

1410	410	840	1883	2081	3300	3772	3274	7128	9094	10894	11598	11880	12181	12473	12632	13176	14232	14703	20250	20892	20893	22581	24283	24732
12	418	847	1887	2081	3300	3772	3274	7128	9094	10894	11598	11880	12181	12473	12632	13176	14232	14703	20250	20892	20893	22581	24283	24732
13	419	855	1893	2081	3300	3772	3274	7128	9094	10894	11598	11880	12181	12473	12632	13176	14232	14703	20250	20892	20893	22581	24283	24732
14	420	860	1899	2082	3305	3787	3295	7133	9100	10899	11607	11886	12181	12479	12637	13241	14243	14705	20254	20898	20895	22584	24284	24733
15	421	867	1906	2082	3304	3786	3297	7136	9114	10910	11610	11900	12186	12484	12638	13242	14241	14717	20251	20894	20910	22583	24285	24734
16	422	874	1913	2083	3312	3792	3299	7139	9120	10913	11613	11903	12189	12487	12639	13243	14242	14718	20252	20895	20911	22584	24286	24735
17	423	881	1920	2084	3314	3792	3299	7144	9121	10911	11617	11912	12193	12488	12648	13343	14280	14725	20247	20897	20912	22587	24289	24740
21	433	966	1712	2001	3317	3764	3354	7631	9211	10827	11582	11915	12202	12502	12951	13444	14281	14759	20006	20898	20914	22612	24304	24746
22	434	973	1719	2002	3318	3765	3355	7631	9211	10827	11582	11915	12202	12502	12951	13444	14281	14759	20006	20898	20914	22612	24304	24746
27	436	1072	1716	2003	3318	3765	3355	7631	9211	10827	11582	11915	12202	12502	12951	13444	14281	14759	20006	20898	20914	22612	24304	24746
31	437	876	1716	2008	3323	3789	3651	7644	9242	10832	11598	11912	12208	13011	12983	13457	14276	14767	20315	20923	20927	22680	24374	24751
34	438	877	1716	2011	3326	3797	3654	7647	9247	10835	11598	11924	12222	12988	13466	14278	14768	20318	20924	20928	22685	24375	24752	
37	440	878	1716	2014	3329	3797	3654	7647	9247	10835	11598	11924	12222	12988	13466	14278	14768	20318	20924	20928	22685	24375	24752	
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37	440	878	1716	2014	3329	3797	3654	7647																

EDUCATIONAL

PREP & PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ST. EDWARD'S SCHOOL OXFORD

APPOINTMENT OF WARDEN

The Governors of St. Edward's School invite applications for the post of Warden, which will become vacant in September 1988 on the retirement of the present Warden.

Candidates must be graduates of a recognised University. From whatever Christian background, they should be in sympathy with the traditions of the Church of England.

Particulars of the conditions and emoluments attached to the post and the method of application may be obtained from:

The Secretary to the Governors,
St. Edward's School,
Oxford OX2 7NN

Applications should reach the Secretary to the Governors by 5th May 1987.

LEIGHTON PARK SCHOOL READING

HMC, Quaker Foundation, 11-18, 350 pupils, 120, (including girls), in Sixth Form.

Required for September 1987:-

HEAD OF MATHEMATICS

An experienced and well qualified mathematician is required to lead a successful department and teach throughout the School up to Oxtbridge entrance.

HEAD OF COMPUTING

The successful candidate will organise and share in the teaching of computing in the timetable, and will foster and encourage the use of computers throughout the school. There is an opportunity to offer a second subject, possibly related to technology.

HEAD OF TECHNOLOGY

An appropriately well-qualified teacher is required to plan and carry through the development of technology, to which the school is to make a major commitment. This will involve considerable cross-disciplinary liaison.

For each of these posts appropriate and attractive salaries will be paid. A willingness to contribute to the all-round life of a boarding school is important. Accommodation may be available.

Applications should be made by letter and curriculum vitae to the Headmaster, Leighton Park School, Reading, RG2 7DH, (0734) 872065, from whom further details of all these posts may be obtained.

ASHDOWN HOUSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

French/Maths. Owing to curriculum expansion additional expert teacher of either or both required to teach to C.E. and Scholarship Level.

Headmaster,
Ash Down House,
Forest Row, RH18 5JY

THE PRINCESS HELENA COLLEGE FOR GIRLS

Temple Drake, Preston near
Hoch, Lancashire
Requires in April and/or in
September a permanent Headmistress
to help with
Games (in particular Lacrosse)
and/or Art.
Ring Helen (0422) 32100.

COVENTRY SCHOOL

(Bablake and
King Henry VIII)

HMC coeducational:
843 pupils
on roll at Bablake.

A well qualified teacher of PHYSICS will be required at Bablake in September to teach the subject at all school levels. Physics is a strong department of five graduates, with good facilities and technical assistance. Opportunities exist to help with extra-curricular activities, particularly boys' games. Government Salary Scale (above Basic for good qualifications and experience, old scale 2 or 3) plus Coventry School Allowance.

Apply by letter (no forms) with curriculum vitae and names and addresses of referees to the Director, Coventry School, Bablake, Coventry CV1 4AU.

ROKEBY

A leading London Preparatory School seeks for September a fully qualified

MATHEMATICS TEACHER

to teach throughout the school up to Common Entrance. A lively approach to Mathematics, full involvement and high academic aims - a necessity. Experience with computers desirable.

Salary on Baker proposals according to experience but not less than £10,000 p.a.

Applications in writing to: The Headmaster, Rokeby, George Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 7PB. Closing date 27th March.

A CAREER IN INDEPENDENT EDUCATION?

Urgently required for April and September '87 teachers of:

French/General Science/Humanities to C.E. and P.S.S.; Geography/French/Sciences/Maths to GCSE/A/OXES. Should send large SAE or telephone for details of FREE RECRUITMENT SERVICE.

Points in Central & Southern England (incl. London). Q.E.D. Educational Recruitment Consultants, 108 High St., Chester, CH1 1PS (01243) 72215/777333 (1304)

DULWICH COLLEGE LONDON SE21

Applications are invited for the post of

BURSAR

from 1st August, 1987. Full details can be obtained from:

The Clerk
to the Governors,
Dulwich College,
London SE21 7LD

to whom applications should be sent, to arrive by 3rd April, 1987.

CROYDON OLD PALACE SCHOOL

(Independent Day School, 750 girls) Required for September, 1987

UNIVERSITY HONOURS GRADUATE MATHEMATICS

to teach throughout the school to Advanced and University entrance level. The School has a strong Mathematics Department with a large number in the sixth form studying the subject. The post would be suitable for either a well qualified beginner or an experienced teacher.

Salary according to qualifications and experience. Scale II or III for a suitable candidate.

Applications with the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Headmistress, Old Palace School, Old Palace Road, Croydon, CRO 1AX.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

LECTURESHIP IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

(INTELLIGENT ROBOTICS)

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Artificial Intelligence in the Faculty of Science, University of Edinburgh. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching of the subject and for the supervision of research students. The post is for three years, with the possibility of extension.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Faculty of Science, University of Edinburgh, Old College, Edinburgh EH8 9JY.

Applications should be sent to the Faculty of Science, University of Edinburgh, Old College, Edinburgh EH8 9JY.

Applications should be sent to the Faculty of Science, University of Edinburgh, Old College, Edinburgh EH8 9JY.

Applications should be sent to the Faculty of Science, University of Edinburgh, Old College, Edinburgh EH8 9JY.

HORIZONS

A guide to
career choice

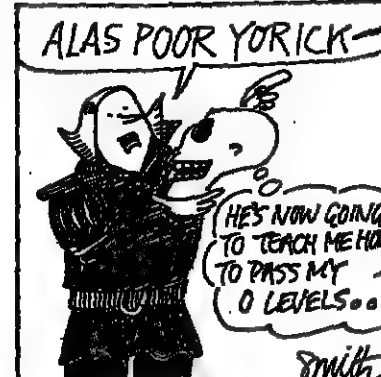
A poor player and O levels

As examination time
comes round, groans
of dismay could

change to cries of
pleasure if the Eng Lit
course followed an

imaginative experiment
and took to the boards,

says Godfrey Golzen



his professional actors all earn less from it than the Equity minimum of £135 per week.

The trouble is that costs are high, even though everything is done on a shoe-string - for instance, the costumes which they bring with them are Army surplus fatigues. They have the advantage of looking timeless and the sizes are pretty tolerant, too," says Seward.

He and his company stay in cheaper bed and breakfast accommodation and they hire a van when they need it, rather than owning one. Their standard £400 set can be fitted in beside the seven players. But underpinning the eight weeks when the company is earning is a very considerable load of administration, preparation and preparing the back-up teaching materials which go out to schools once the booking is confirmed. On top of that there are their own rehearsals.

In the straightforward commercial world the remedy would be to charge more, once you have established, as Tim has done, that you are offering a unique service for which there is a clear demand. But at present levels of government spending on education, he feels that this course is not open to him. The answer may lie in getting sponsorship and he went to Saatchi & Saatchi for advice on how to set about this.

"We're registered as a charity, and though I've not so far seen much

practical advantage in that, it does proclaim we're a worthy cause," he says. He found out that Saatchis have a department that offers either advice or money to charities, and he went for the former. It took the form of showing him how to prepare an appeal for sponsorship and that has brought some promising discussions with a number of big firms.

If that comes off and bookings continue at their present level, it looks as though Cambridge Syllabus Players might be able to offer its professional actors enough work to give them all a living wage. But then they face a problem which hits all growing small businesses - the VAT threshold of a turnover of over £20,500 a year. In their case that is a particular dilemma because they are supplying schools which are exempt, and therefore cannot reclaim input tax. That means they will either have to charge 15 per cent or accept a 15 per cent cut in their own margins. "We're going to talk to one of the Enterprise Agencies and see if they can come up with an answer," Seward says.

Sue Churchill is another former full-time teacher whose commitment is enshrined in the name of the bookshop she has opened near Newton Abbot: *Reading Matters*. "After nine years, I felt the profession was changing - and I needed a career change," she says, though she prepared her move carefully. While still teaching she spent a great deal of time looking for a suitable site - a place she wanted to live in as well as work from. Eventually the estate agents came up with a listed building, a former shoe shop which had the advantage of being near schools, a growing housing area and a health centre, all of which would act as a magnet for passing trade.

Publishers gave them credit

The site was also quite a long way from competing bookshops.

While all this was going on she attended an MSC course on bookselling but she feels the most valuable part of her preparation was the questionnaire she sent out to prospective customers.

She thinks she got her opening moves about right. Though funding was difficult, she found publishers were helpful about extending credit - and even about taking back books on which she have overstocked. After only a few months, she is breaking even on her trading, though her own drawings are very modest and she is supplementing them by giving evening classes - as well as putting in long hours in her shop. Her only help there is a part-time assistant who works fewer than eight hours a week so that Sue doesn't have the bother of PAYE and NI paperwork. "The job satisfaction more than makes up for the fact that I'm earning less than I was as a teacher."

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

LECTURESHIP

The Institute (formerly the Department of Administrative Studies) is a multi-disciplinary organisation engaged in research, teaching and consultancy activities related to Third World development. It invites applications for a lectureship which may be held in any area of public sector management in developing countries. Specialists in the following areas would be particularly welcome: applications of computers to public administration and policy-making; including macro-modelling; human resource development; in particular public sector management and training; politics of planning and budgeting; project identification and planning; design and management of public sector financial institutions. Applicants should have a strong research record. Experience of management and/or policy-making in the Third World would be an additional advantage.

The lectureship is offered in the first instance for one year from September 1st, 1987 with the possibility of extension into a three-year rolling contract. Salary on the Lecturer scale £8,020 to £15,700 p.a. (under review).

Further particulars and application forms (returnable by April 6th) from the Registrar, the University, Manchester M13 9PL.

Quote reference 52/87/T1.

UNIVERSITY OF READING School of Education

Applications are invited for two Lectureships from 1 September 1987.

1. Lecturer in Modern Languages (Ref. AC. 8705)
2. Lecturer in Physics Education (Ref. AC. 8706)

Candidates should have varied and successful teaching experience and will be expected to conform to C.A.T.E. requirements by undertaking and maintaining in schools relevant teaching experience in their academic subject, candidates should have a lively interest in its pedagogy, especially at secondary level, since all P.G.C.E. work at Reading is aimed at secondary schools. The School of Education has a strong commitment to in-service education and opportunities exist for the successful candidates to be involved in this. Salary scale: Grade A £8375 to £13675 p.a.; Grade B £14245 to £18210 p.a. plus USS/USDPs benefits. Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) are available from The Personnel Officer, University of Reading, Whiteknights, P.O. Box 217, Reading, RG6 2AH. Telephone (0734) 875125 ext. 220. Please quote appropriate Ref. No. Closing date 24 April 1987.

BEDALES SCHOOL PETERSFIELD, HAMPSHIRE GU32 2DG

HMC Coeducational
Day and Boarding 4-18

BURSAR AND CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS

Applications are invited for the above position on the appointment of the present Bursar, Mr R A Alexander, as Clerk to The Dulwich Foundation Schools. Applicants must have a proven record of financial and managerial skills.

Applications in writing, including full curriculum vitae and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three referees, should be sent to the Headmaster from whom further details are available.

Closing date for applications: 8 April 1987

CHEADLE HULME SCHOOL H.M.C. CO-EDUCATIONAL: PART BOARDING SIXTH FORM 250

Required for September a Graduate to teach HISTORY throughout the School to 'A' and 'S' level. An enthusiasm for work in the Games Department would be advantageous. This is a suitable post for a first or a second appointment, salary accordingly. Write, giving curriculum vitae and the names of two referees, to the Headmaster, Cheadle Hulme School, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, SK8 6EF

CAMBRIDGE THE LEYS SCHOOL

HMC 400 Pupils
160 in Vth form, including 32 girls.

Required for September, 1987

1. A good honours graduate to teach PHYSICS throughout the School to GCSE, 'A' level, and Oxford & Cambridge entrance standard. The ability to contribute to teaching Design and Technology would be an advantage.

2. A good honours graduate to teach BIOLOGY to GCSE and 'A' level, and to teach CHEMISTRY to GCSE level.

Further details of both posts are available on application to The Headmaster, The Leys School, Cambridge, CB2 2AD.

MOUNT HOUSE SCHOOL (I.A.P.S. 180 Boys)

BURSAR

Applications are invited for the post of Bursar for September 1987. Please apply in writing including full C.V. together with the names and addresses and telephone numbers of 2 referees to:

The Head Master,
Mount House School,
Tavistock,
Devon PL19 9JL.

KING'S HOUSE SCHOOL, RICHMOND, SURREY (IAPS Day School)

Teacher required for September 1987 to teach GENERAL SCIENCE in the senior part of the school. Possibility of accommodation. Salary King's House Scale with Responsibility Allowance. Please apply to the Headmaster, King's House School, 68 Kings Road, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6ES.

IBSTOCK PLACE SCHOOL (Demonstration School of The Froebel Institute) Clarence Lane, Roehampton London SW15 5PY.

Co-educational Day School 1841
750 Pupils from 3-16 years.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

IBstock Place School invites applications for a limited number of Music Scholarships at 11, 12 and 13+ worth the value of a quarter of the school fees, plus free tuition in one instrument.

Candidates should normally be of at least grade 5 standard on their main instrument or voice, and should be able to demonstrate general musical awareness and mental agility. It should however be stressed that the school looks for musical potential as well as achievement.

Full details and entry forms from the Director of Music, who will be pleased to see prospective candidates at any time. Closing date 30th June for entry into the Senior School in September 1987.

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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We help through training, and correct assigning... and recognise upper class performance.
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£9,000-£10,000
Lively award winning Architects and Designers need Organising Secretaries to co-ordinate a busy versatile team. Lots of liaison and arranging. No travel. Age early 20's.

ADVERTISING
£12,000
Newly appointed MD needs experienced Advertising PA/Sec combining good S/H skills with superb admin/organising skills and social confidence. Early/Mid 20's.

COLLEGE LEAVER SECRETARIES
Superb chance - no time your pick of Publishing, Education, Public Relations, Property, Personnel and Recruitment. Banking, Current Affairs, Christian etc. Good salaries.

353 7696 353 7696 353 7696
COVENT GARDEN BUREAU

WHITBREAD BRITANNIA INNS
We are currently seeking first class staff for two positions within our Head Office function based in Hendon.
One is secretary/PA to the Director/General Manager and the other is secretary to three managers.
Candidates having the necessary shorthand, audio and typing skills, applicants should be good communicators, assertive and organised in their approach to work. Ability to use an IBM word processor would be an advantage, although training will be given.
Compensation package is excellent and includes five weeks holiday per annum.
Applications including CV please to:
Mrs A. West
Administration Manager
Whitbread Britannia Inns
1st Floor, Hendon Ale & Wine House
Hendon Way, London NW4 5LP

PROSPECTS IN PERSONNEL
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MANAGEMENT BUYOUTS

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A SPECIAL REPORT

Do-it-yourself takeovers

The romantic notion of the management buyout is of a group of enthusiastic managers who team up to buy the subsidiary of a large company which has been badly handled by the main board, or no longer fits in. Because of the teams' greater commitment they save the company and the jobs of its workers, and everybody lives happily ever after.

That is not always the way it works, as the sad saga of Vosper Shiprepairers shows. Vosper was taken over by its management from British Shipbuilders two years ago.

In February, faced with debts of £4.5 million, Vosper had to call in accountants to administer the company under the 1986 Insolvency Act. The chances of it remaining in business are slim.

That harsh reminder that management buyouts can fail is like any other enterprise is unlikely to slow the rush down his particular road to entrepreneurship.

Last year, the number of MBOs reached record levels, with more than £1 billion being advanced to fund round 250 deals. What was once a quirky way to independence is now an industry.

Institutional investors have hinged into the market, some more readily than others, consortia have been formed to back the buyouts, and a whole portfolio of arrangements is available to meet the often intricate funding arrangements that they require.

There is even an academic watchdog set up to monitor the industry, the Centre for Management Buy-Out Research, at Nottingham University, sponsored by Barclays Development Capital and the accountants Spicer & Pegler.

The benchmark date for the spinning of the MBO trend in Britain is generally taken to be 1965, when KKR pioneered the movement. Twenty years later the total amount of funds at up for management buyouts hit £1 billion for the

first time, and the first £100 million deal had been done.

The real acceleration started, in 1979, and according to some, two of the key reasons for the growth then can be attributed to the Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. Her renaissance of the entrepreneur coincided with the big industrial shake-out which left many managers with the choice of trying to buy the company that might have been closed under them, or going on the dole.

The increasingly popular corporate strategy among big

Obviously, few salaried managers can afford to put up that sort of cash, so the "leveraged" buyout has been imported from America to become part of the British financial scene.

Finance is arranged by borrowing against the assets and earnings of their company, often through extremely complex packages, structured to obtain the maximum possible tax benefits. All the managers have to do then is to make the company perform well enough to pay the interest charges, and eventually repay the capital.

Some don't make it. According to CMBR, around one in 10 MBOs end up in the bankruptcy court, which is a favourable record compared to the one-in-three failure rate among straight start-up situations.

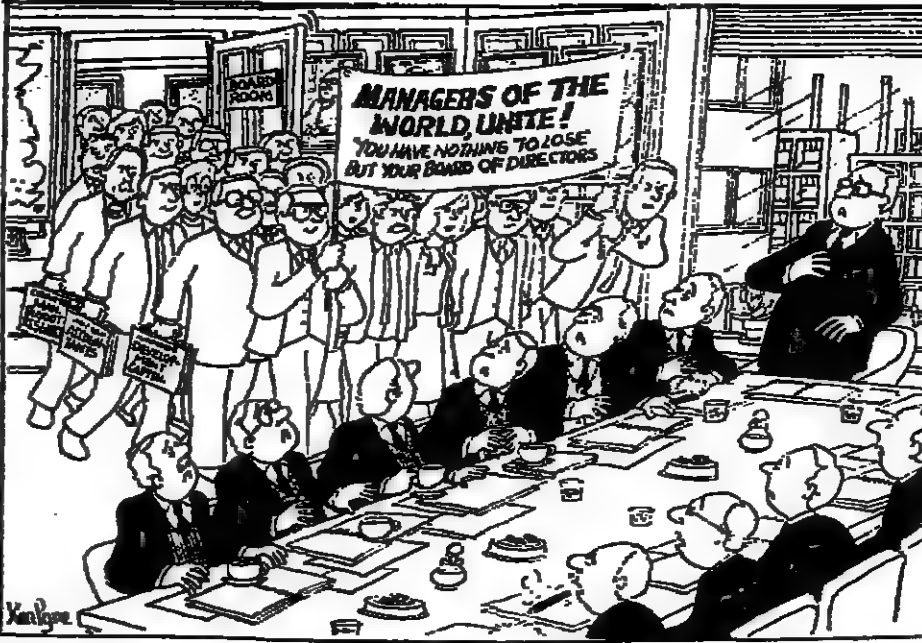
The ambition of many managers, and most of their financial sponsors, is for the companies to replace debt with equity by floating off on the stock market. Around 100 have done so, either through a full listing on the Stock Exchange, or on the Unlisted Securities Market or over-the-counter market.

These have included companies of the size of VSEL, the former Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering company, which was privatised through a sale to its employees early last year, and was successfully floated off in July and now commands a stock market capitalization of £105 million.

Mecca Leisure, sold to its management by Grand Metropolitan in 1985, was floated as a fully listed company last year and is now worth £143 million.

It can even work in reverse. Gomme Holdings, the G-Plan furniture group ceased to be a public company last year following a takeover by its management.

The introduction of the third tier into the London Stock Exchange earlier this year offering yet another avenue for realizing investments



in MBOs, could also prompt more activity.

What worries the CMBR director, Dr Mike Wright, is that there could be too much money chasing too few deals, and driving up the prices charged by vendors. One of his sponsors, Spicer & Pegler, has estimated that there will be around £5 billion available for MBOs this year.

Whether there are enough suitable propositions to take up a fraction of this amount can be questioned. Finding the right combination of working assets and talented management is never easy.

Dr Wright does not agree with the view held in some quarters that the market is now ready to take a breather, but points out that the apparently changed attitude to takeover bids could reduce expectations of vendors who may no longer be able to find competitive offers to a suggested MBO.

Even if there is a slackening of activity in the UK, the expertise gained can now be exported. Enthusiasm for MBOs is beginning to spread to Europe.

According to Dr Wright, there has been growing activity in Holland and France and signs of movement in Germany. While the local institutions have been largely responsible for arranging the finance, UK money men are looking hard at Europe.

Ray Heath

The 11-plus failure who makes millions

Back in 1981 when Bernard Holmes, then aged 38, was headhunting to do a turnaround job at Silcock and Colling, the car-transporter subsidiary of Sears, he suspected that one day there might well be an opportunity for a management buyout.

The business was profitable but it had been losing market shares, and there were signs it was heading for losses. As managing director, he devised a business plan based on the idea of creating a European car transporter company which would reflect the European nature of the car industry.

A detailed strategy was worked out. The French subsidiary was to be extended to serve the whole country and Spain was chosen for further significant expansion in anticipation of its joining the Common Market.

The only problem with the plan was that it called for an investment of about £4 million at a time when profits were running at about £1 million. Sears was not convinced and said it was not prepared to put up the money.

Mr Holmes says: "I think they felt uncomfortable with further investment in France, and certainly in Spain which had recently changed its political complexion and was not

certain to join the EEC." There was a clear choice for Mr Holmes. "I said, then either I have to leave the group or you have to sell it to me." Within a week Sears had said yes to a buyout.

That was 1983, before buyouts had become standard text book stuff. Mr Holmes, without any contacts in the banking world, then set about seeking financial backing.

What he did have was an impressive managerial track record. As an 11-plus failure, he had been the first pupil

MD's ultimatum: 'Either I leave the group, or you sell it to me'

from a secondary modern school in Kent to win a university place. He has also studied at the London School of Economics. Later, after a year's voluntary service in the Sudan, he joined the Ford Motor Company in 1967 and was promoted to UK traffic and customer manager.

Mr Holmes taught himself about buyouts by visiting accountancy firms and collecting leaflets. Sears offered him £2 million in loans and then a friend from Hong Kong put him in touch with the Royal Bank of Scotland whose cor-

NUMBER AND VALUE OF MBOs 1986-87

Year	No	Com no	Value (£m)	Com value (£m)	Av value in year (£m)
1987-76	43	43	n/a	n/a	n/a
1977	13	56	n/a	n/a	n/a
1978	23	79	n/a	n/a	n/a
1979	52	131	26	26	0.50
1980	107	238	50	76	0.47
1981	124	362	114	190	0.92
1982	170	532	265	455	1.35
1983	205	737	315	770	1.54
1984	210	947	415	1185	1.98
1985	229	1176	1150	2335	5.02
1986*	248	1424	1438	3773	5.02

* Delays in receiving information may lead to underestimation. Source: Centre for Management Buyout Research, University of Nottingham

Right: Bernard Holmes, the MD who bought out a Sears subsidiary for £4 million after giving the group an ultimatum



porate finance arm took action.

Mr Holmes says: "I had a five-year cash flow and profits projection, and I did not really have many problems because the worst part of the company was largely its management."

The £5.5 million buyout was finalized in August 1984 with Mr Holmes and two other directors owning 90 per cent of the equity and the Royal Bank 10 per cent. (The latter stake is now held by Charterhouse Development Capital through the Royal Bank's ownership of

being a delegator, Mr Holmes says he has never before worked so hard, with a 17-hour day and more than one-third of his time spent abroad.

"I found myself in a position where I had a free reign with the policies. It was a mind-blowing experience to realize that I could be genuinely entrepreneurial."

Anxious to reduce the business's complete dependency on the vagaries of the motor industry, Mr Holmes has set up his own seedcorn finance operation. The spare space at the Barking head office is now filled by a number of small start-up operations in which Silcock Express has an equity holding in return for accommodation and loans. "It has given me a great deal of pleasure," says Mr Holmes.

So far there are four small companies ranging from a security guard business to computer software, and two are already profitable.

For the future, Silcock Express plans further joint ventures in Spain and France but there is no intention to seek a stock market flotation. "If I wanted to make a lot of money I would take the company to the market but I do not want the pressure of external shareholders," he says.

Teresa Poole

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THE POWER IS IN THE PARTNERSHIP

Making the new bosses

Tempted by dreams of becoming multi-millionaires with their shares quoted on the stock market, many managers have attempted company buyouts over the past few years.

They have imagined that, freed from the straightjacket of being part of a larger organization, they will be able to run a business the way they think fit and make their fortune at the same time.

Many, however, have fallen at the first hurdle — convincing their accountants that they have a viable case.

One firm with the widest experience of advising on how to be your own boss is Peat Marwick. It has assisted in

more than 150 management buyouts since 1980, when the trend really started, involving investments of between £25,000 and £100 million.

One of the best known was the buyout of Stone International, the world's biggest suppliers of air conditioning for transport systems, which was bought from its failed parent, Stone-Platt Industries, for £15 million in 1982 by four of the directors. The company eventually went public two years later, valued at £37 million, although it has recently had a run of bad luck.

Another was the buyout from Hanson Trust of the Collier men's clothing chain, later to be acquired by the Burton Group.

On a smaller scale, Peat Marwick helped four managers of a wire-drawing company, E and E Kaye of Enfield, Middlesex, to acquire the firm in 1982 for more than £1 million from the French nationalized corporation, Pechiney.

The accountant's involvement comes about in a variety of ways. A group may review

The idea is often put up by accountants

its corporate strategy and decide to sell off part of the business to concentrate on other areas, to frustrate a takeover bid it believes is on the way, or simply because the

operation is not making enough money.

With knowledge of the business, a buyout team may be prepared to offer a better price than an outside buyer. On the other hand, a group of managers may decide to go in cold and ask the owners if they would be willing to sell.

In fact, the germ of the idea is often planted by Peat Marwick itself, which regularly places advertisements intended to start management thinking along those lines.

It also runs seminars for managements considering a buyout, covering the methods of finance, tax implications and the other nuts and bolts involved in operating a company.

David Carter, head of corporate finance services for Peat Marwick, says: "You can often get a very good idea of whether the deal is a non-starter from the first meeting with the management. You can judge pretty well whether they are up to scratch and if the proposition is on by looking at the profit record and cash flow."

"If you think the idea is worth going ahead with, you ask them for a 10 to 20-page business plan, hopefully with as many figures as words to back it up."

Once the crucial vetting stage is over, Peat Marwick — and the other accountants like

them — act as a sort of bridgehead to carry the proposition to the City.

There is no shortage of money available for a buyout, as long as it is well thought out. David Carter says: "I generally select four different financial routes which might be suitable. It could be a Business Expansion Scheme fund, a clearing bank, a development capital arm, or perhaps an American provider of debt. I usually look for a quick response. I also need to know what sort of price they would be prepared to support the acquisition at."

The institutions financing a management buyout will need

to be convinced that the business has the resources necessary to make a success, especially where the buyout follows a period of little or no profitability. They will also be looking for evidence that it will generate the strong positive cash flow needed to repay initial borrowings.

In-depth investigations by Peat Marwick will, for instance, cover important areas such as the market assessment of the competitors, technological changes, the firm's vulnerability to price changes, interest rates and exchange rates, the state of the plant and equipment, and whether the supplies of raw materials and

components are secure.

Most institutions set their eyes on seeing a flotation within three to five years. An early exit is also important for the managers, who may have borrowed heavily to put up their own stake — typically around £50,000 each in a £10 million buyout.

Surprisingly, one of the biggest snags can be the attitude of the owners of the business. Mr Carter says: "Sometimes they aren't even aware that the managers are working on a buyout and can turn the whole deal down. I am working on four deals, each of more than £10 million and the chances of more than

one being done is slim because of the vendor."

He is also cautious about the growth prospects for buyouts, which he blames on unrealistically high asking prices. For instance, there were 10 deals over £10 million in the first quarter of last year, but the numbers fell steadily to six in the past three months. "We have had only one deal over £10 million so far this year. It is very difficult to finalize buyouts where the price earnings ratio gets much above 10 because of the high level of gearing involved in the purchase."

Cliff Feltham

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When the staff take over from the state

The Government's zest for privatization has proved a Godsend for the managers in many nationalized industries wanting to take over their own companies.

The theory is that once freed from the dead hand of state ownership and bureaucracy, the company can be more responsive to market forces and be accountable to committed shareholders rather than to differently-

motivated politicians.

It does not always work, and the recent collapse of Vosper Shipbuilders at Southampton, bought by its management from British Shipbuilders, is a sad example of how even management buyout is no insulation against market forces.

It is a risky and courageous step for any manager to take, but when the company is protected by the might of Whitehall, it is even more a journey into the unknown.

There have been a number of successful buyouts in the state sector and the one that captured the hearts and minds of many people was that of the Vickers and Cammell Laird warship yards at Barrow-in-Furness and Birkenhead.

For once, the bankers and accountants took a back seat as 11,500 workers and 5,000 local people became shareholders, owning 27 per cent of the equity. City institutions led by Lloyds Merchant Bank own the remainder.

The new company, Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Group, was put together by the Vickers chairman, Sir David Nicholson, and the chief executive, Rodney Leach, whose efforts raised the enthusiasm and the £100 million to buy the two businesses.

British Shipbuilders, then run by Graham Day, later to head the Rover Group, was anxious to obey government instructions to sell the warship interests quickly and the less attractive Cammell Laird was lumped with Vickers as a saleable package.

After the sale, Dr Leach estimated that the order book, including the first of the controversial Trident nuclear submarines, was worth £2 billion and would allow both facilities to operate profitably into the 1990s. Profits for last year are expected to be about £12 million.

Mr Day's privatization expertise has since been utilized in his new role as chairman and chief executive of the rump of Britain's motor industry, with a brief to return as much as possible of the old British Leyland company to the private sector as quickly as he can. A few weeks ago, he finally signed away a controlling interest in Unipart, the profitable parts and components division to a band of managers and City institutions led by Charterhouse Bank, who bought 78.33 per cent of the company for £30 million.

The company's 4,000 workers have been offered 12 per cent of the ordinary shares and told by Mr Neill that £15 invested in founders' shares could be worth more than £2,000 if Unipart was floated on the stock market at a valuation of £75 million within the next few years.

The much-heralded Unipart sale has pleased Government ministers, but so have the smaller and less publicized hirings off to the private sector of the component parts of the National Bus Company. Thirteen regional bus companies have now been sold, one of the latest being Trent Motor Traction of Derby which went to its own management led by its man-



A former bus conductor, Arthur Townsend, pictured left, with David Mitchell, the Transport Minister, led the successful staff buyout of Oxford Motor Services from the National Bus Company

ing director, Brian King. About a fifth of the shares are being offered to the 1,100 employees.

NBC, which had 52 local bus subsidiaries and 19 other companies to privatize, says it expects more sales this year and that most of the company will have been disposed of by the end of this year. NBC is refusing to disclose the value of individual buyouts, but the Government says it will release a total figure at the end of the exercise.

The biggest NBC buyout has been that of the Eastern National Omnibus Company in which the management bought an 80 per cent stake last December. The company

runs 526 buses and coaches and has 15 depots.

At the other end of the scale, City of Oxford Motor Services, which has a fleet of 157 vehicles, was sold in January to a management team led by Arthur Townsend, a 58-year-old former bus conductor and the longest-serving managing director of an NBC subsidiary.

Last year, the Department of Transport said that NBC staff bids would receive preferential treatment on price of up to five per cent, plus up to £42,000 for professional fees, repayable only if the buyout was successful.

But perhaps the most celebrated management and employee buyout from the state sector is that of the National

Freight Consortium five years ago. Shareholders, whose individual investments are now worth many thousands of pounds, have given the thumbs down to a public flotation for at least a year.

The consortium, which includes National Carriers and Pickfords, now has 21,030 shareholders, of whom more than 80 per cent are employees and their families or company pensioners. Banks and institutions hold about 17 per cent. Now, Sir Peter Thompson, the chairman, is keen to persuade more middle managers to become shareholders and to create a "core of capitalists".

Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent



How to be your own boss without giving up your job.

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Buzz word in the City

If the firm's inside management team isn't skilled enough to support a buyout, that's the time to for an outside team to buy in

There's a new buzz word being heard in the world of venture capital — buy-in. The basic recipe is simple: take a company that is underperforming because of bad management, organize an ambitious new management team with a sound alternative business plan, then add the financial backing of a group of venture capital funds or banks which enables the new team to acquire control.

Next, the new management makes an offer and the existing shareholders or parent company can either opt to take the cash and get out, or accept shares and stay with the firm and new management.

The incentive for the new managers is a sizeable stake in the company. The old managers are out of a job.

This scenario is one which a number of venture capitalists expect to become far more commonplace this year. Dr Hugh de Quervain, managing director of Midland Montagu Ventures, says: "It is almost a market reaction to a situation where the market is crowded. There is now too much money around chasing too few worthwhile buyout opportunities."

So, as any good salesman knows, the answer is to produce a new product aimed at a different situation.

The target for a buy-in can be a quoted company but is more likely to be a subsidiary of a quoted company, a company with a foreign parent, or a private company.

Examples of successful buy-ins include Woolworths in 1982, Meggitt Holdings, Melville Technology, Cullen's, Barker and Dobson, and Cambridge Instruments in 1979.

More recent was the failed £200 million buy-in bid by Valuedale for Simon Engineering. Led by Philip Ling, managing director of the Haden Group which itself fought off a hostile bid with a successful management buy-out, Valuedale offered Simon Engineering shareholders an immediate cash payment but left them in control of the company. Only after a significant



MANAGEMENT TEAM 1966-1986



MANAGEMENT TEAM 1987



increase in the share price would Mr Ling and his team and backers have been rewarded with a substantial stake in the company.

Simon Engineering's shareholders were not convinced and the buy-in failed. Given the Guinness scandal, the climate was probably against hostile bids of any sort. In any case, the general City view was that the existing management at Simons should be given the benefit of the doubt. There is a

says: "You do not need a whole team. It could be two or three people, or even one."

Compared with a buyout, a buy-in team will probably be expected to make a greater financial commitment themselves. Ken Coates, chief executive of Meggitt Holdings, put in around £100,000 of his own money when he and Nigel McCoswell moved in from Flight Refuelling in 1983.

"It was a monumental risk, but it just seemed the right

thing to do," he says. A buy-in for a quoted company is, by definition, almost always going to be hostile. Meggitt was unusual in that a large shareholding was owned by an ageing *in situ* management happy to make way for younger blood.

Although further hostile approaches may be put off by Valuedale's experience, it would be possible for a buy-in to have the support of shareholders but not the existing management. Richard Mead, the corporate finance partner at Arthur Young, the accountants, says: "Hostile buy-ins are out of fashion. But I think there will be a number of 'put-ins' where we get smart management put in with institutional backing.

The incentive for new managers is a sizeable stake in the company

consensus at the moment which suggests that it will be the agreed buy-ins which emerge this year. Mr Ling says: "Leaving out public companies, I am sure there are going to be many more deals which bring together capital and new management to revitalize a company."

What is needed, he says, is a catalyst. "The problem is that you have to arrange for the capital, the managers, and the deal all to be ready at the right time. It is a perfect role for an intermediary."

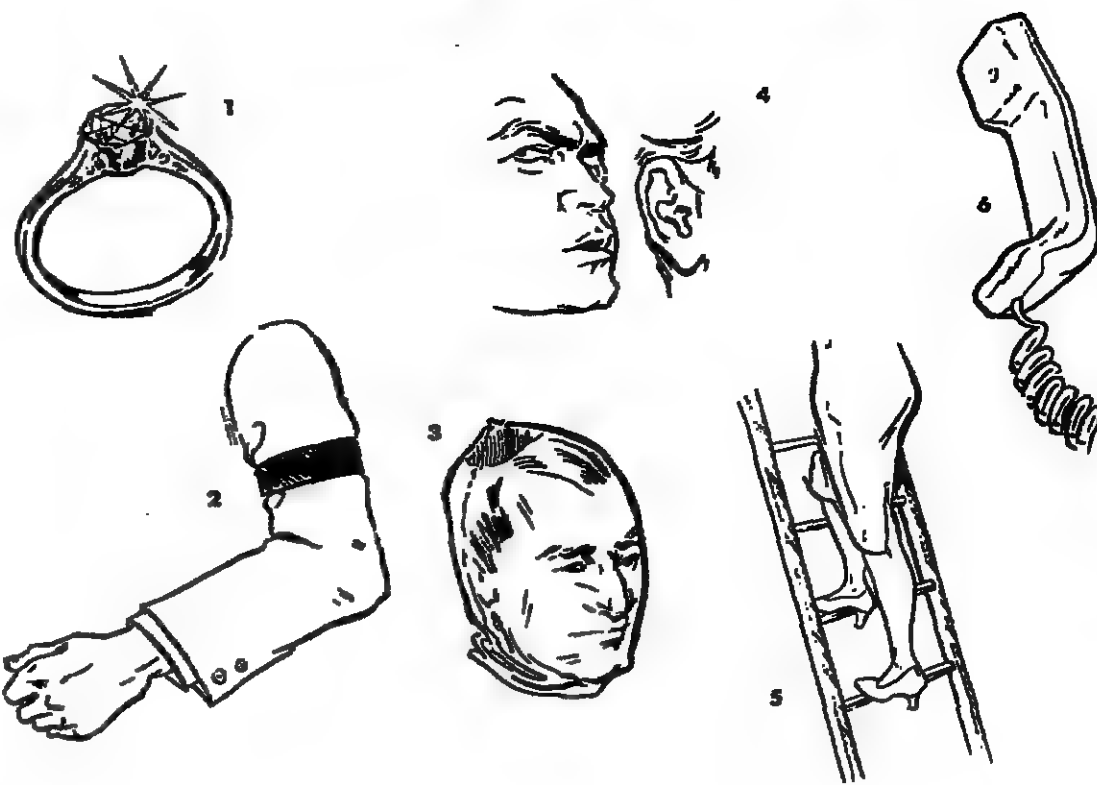
Midland Montagu last week hosted Britain's first buy-in conference to increase the awareness of opportunities. Dr de Quervain, who is regularly approached by managers looking for a new challenge,

thing to do," he says. A buy-in for a quoted company is, by definition, almost always going to be hostile. Meggitt was unusual in that a large shareholding was owned by an ageing *in situ* management happy to make way for younger blood.

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Billions in the chase

There is no shortage of finance for buyouts. A quick tally suggests that about 120 organizations in Britain say they are interested in investing in buyouts. Of these, maybe 20 are active players in the market.

According to Charles Gonszor, head of management buyouts at Citicorp Venture Capital, which launched a £100 million buyout equity fund in 1985: "The market is probably worth between £1 billion and £1.5 billion at the moment and we reckon that there is about £5 billion of equity and debt chasing that market."

Over the past two years there has been a surge in the number of specialist funds dedicated to providing equity for buyouts. These range from the £260 million Electra Candover fund right down to the £2 million Johnson Fry BES scheme.

Just adding up these dedicated or earmarked resources (which do not include £1, which has put up more than £200 million for buyouts so far and was one of the first to encourage their growth) accounts for around £800 million of equity finance searching for suitable buyout situations. For some time it has been clear that there is too much money chasing too few deals.

As a result, something akin to an informal buyout club has

emerged. In the UK — much more than in the US — the buyout market is very much a syndicated market. A deal will be led by one institution but, if large enough, the equity will be shared among a number of investors. A quick review of most of the large buyouts that have caught the headlines over the past year reveals that the same names crop up again and again.

A syndicated market has two benefits. It is easy for investors to limit any one investment to a manageable risk, and it means that when deals are in short supply each key player shares out his cake with the others. It also makes the market for buyout finance



Charles Gonszor of Citicorp Venture Managers.

The other leading name would be Schroder Ventures, which put together the defensive buyout at Haden and trumped the Trafalgar House takeover bid.

Charterhouse Development Capital, which recently closed its £100 million dedicated buyout fund, last year helped finance 16 buyouts with a total

He is optimistic that the recent growth in buyouts in Britain can be maintained but also points to the opportunities in Europe. Just as the US now looks for buyout opportunities in Britain, so are the British specialists beginning to export their experience to the Continent. "It is a great opportunity. In Germany, Italy and France there is a great interest in buyouts," he adds.

Within the UK, the competition to invest funds combined with a buoyant stock market has pushed up the prices of buyouts, particularly at the top end of the market where the management offer can all too easily be topped by a more generous price from a listed company with highly valued paper to issue.

Just such a rival bid from Allied Lyons forced the management of the food and beverages division of Cadbury Schweppes to raise its offer.

But these high valuations could help to tempt funds away from the obvious sale deals, Mr Gonszor says. "Some of the leaders are getting more aggressive, going for riskier deals and lending more. The trend is also towards larger buyouts although it is difficult to see whether we will see a Beatrice type deal (at \$6.2 billion) in this country."

There is some feeling among observers that buyouts have so far presented the venture capital funds with an uncommonly safe type of investment and have perhaps diverted much needed risk capital away from other aspects of British industry. The funds are very choosy about their buyout investments and the failure rate — again so far — is low.

Teresa Poole

Funds are choosy on investments and failure rates are low

quite hard for a newcomer to break into. "There are a lot of funds not doing very much," said one specialist.

According to figures prepared by Peat Marwick, the leading accountants for buyouts, those most active as leaders in deals worth more than £10 million up until September 1986 are Bankers Trust, Barclays Development Capital, Candover Investment, Charterhouse Development Capital, Citicorp Venture Capital, Electra Investment Trust, 3i, Lloyds Merchant Bank/Development Capital and Prudential Ven-

value (including equity and loan finance) of £264 million. The new fund — now deciding on its first investment — is aimed at buyouts worth more than £10 million.

In common with a trend found with most of the specialist funds, half of the money committed to Charterhouse's fund was raised in the US. Robert Smith, managing director of Charterhouse Development Capital, says: "There is a lot more money there. They understand management buyouts and it is a much more mature market."

The front men

At Murray Johnstone, where the Glasgow fund manager has had particular success in the management buyout field, a register is kept of more than 50 individuals with excellent track records.

Most investing institutions insist, first and foremost, on absolute trust in the people running the business which they are being asked to help finance.

Second, the fund manager will look for a strong and positive cash flow. Most such transactions today are highly geared, with the debt having not only to be serviced but also repaid.

High gearing on the one hand increases the risk and on the other the potential rewards to both management and investing institutions. Responsible institutions satisfy themselves that the level of debt will not jeopardize the future of the company.

Positive cash flow emanates from three main sources: profits, the disposal of unwanted assets and the tighter control

of working capital. Investors will want to see a profit base secured by a mature product which can at least maintain its market share in the medium term. Under-utilized assets which can be realized have obvious advantages, but it is also important to ensure that the company is able to invest sufficient funds to at least maintain its competitive situation.

High technology businesses with significant R & D expenditure, and companies with large capital expenditure programmes often start at a disadvantage, however in such cases, buyouts can be structured, but the element of gearing must be carefully controlled.

Whatever the circumstances, responsible institutional investors are wary of cyclical companies. A recession with a downturn in both activity and margins, coupled with an increase in interest rates, can be a lethal cocktail if gearing is material.

Institutions also place some

importance on the financial commitment of the management team. Management is responsible for the success of the company, and will invest on more favourable terms than the institutions.

However, this carried interest should be reasonable, and most institutions prefer that capital rewards are linked to performance in some way.

Management's financial commitment should be material, but not to the extent that its members spend more time worrying about their personal position than the company's cash flow.

Buyout failures arise when a management team is not strong enough to run the business so that the debt can be serviced and repaid.

Responsible institutions recognize these potential problems and avoid the more risky situations. In a large portfolio it is inevitable that there will be companies which do not perform to plan, and in some cases lead at an early stage to ensure that any weaknesses can be corrected.

Michael Tate

Talking about a management buy-out? Talk to us.

Inside your company there may be a thriving business struggling to get out.

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the moment you decide to investigate the feasibility of a buy-out. They will provide independent and confidential guidance — from assisting you in negotiating the most appropriate financial package to advising you on the most tax effective structure and, ultimately, helping you run a successful independent business.

For further information, and details of our late afternoon seminars on March 24th and May 5th call Tom Wilson or Chris Rees on 01-407 8989.

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Electra and the Management Buy-out

When Electra Investment Trust emerged as a public listed company in 1976, its policy was imaginative, bold and clear.

Electra perceived serious challenges to the investment trust industry in the UK which it felt could be met only by those investment houses which brought innovative techniques to a specialist field. For Electra specialisation meant developing the expertise to commit its capital — then approximately £60 million but now nearly £350 million — to investment mainly in unlisted equity securities with a high risk but high rate of return profile.

As Michael Stoddart, Chairman of Electra, says: "We set out to be different; to emulate the investment strategies of the successful players of the past century, whose risk-taking approach made such a contribution to industrial development and to their own fortunes."

The success of this policy is demonstrated by the growth of Electra's asset value over the past ten years. In the early days, Electra invested in a number of industries but there has been an important emphasis on financial services. Electra took interests in private firms such as stock jobbers, Akroyd & Smithers in London and in the Oppenheimer Group in the US. Oppenheimer gave Electra a window on the development of the leveraged buy-out in the US and much of its current activities in this field in the UK and the US is derived from this relationship.

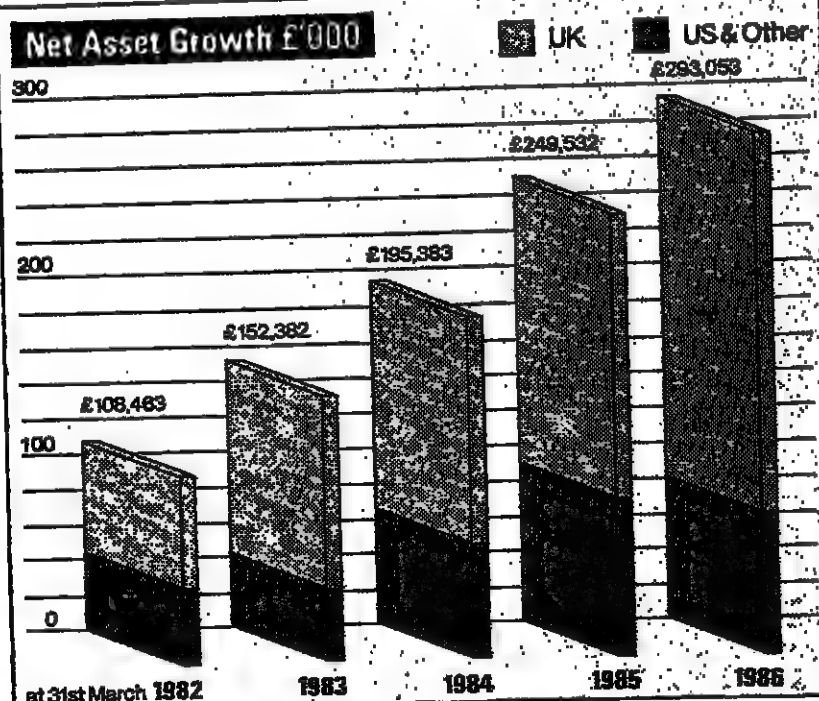
Electra's unlisted investments are now divided approximately equally between the UK and the US. In the last two years, Electra participated in sixteen management buy-outs in the UK and twenty seven leveraged buy-outs in the US.

Among UK investment trusts, Electra is unique. As a specialist in UK and US unlisted investments of all kinds, it has become a leader in financing management buy-outs to acquire substantial interests in their companies.

The transatlantic dimension is essential to Electra's stream of opportunity. Apart from contributing to the substantial growth in capital value, it has allowed Electra to adapt the leveraged buy-out techniques it learnt in the US to the UK environment.

"Electra's skills are highly relevant to the re-emergence in the past few years of wealth creation as a legitimate social objective in this country," says Michael Bentley, Chief Executive of Electra. "Electra was among the first to invest on a project by project basis and also to appreciate the readiness of the banks to provide loan financing principally on cash flow rather than assets which is a critical feature of the management buy-out," says Bentley.

Reciprocal appreciation on the part of the US market for Electra's Anglo-American focus was demonstrated last year when three major investors, GE Pension Fund, Travelers Insurance and US Steel Pension Fund singled out Electra



as a vehicle through which to participate in the emerging buy-out business in the UK. They provided \$40 million directly to Electra and two of them committed further substantial sums to the Electra Candover Direct Investment Plan which was assembled later.

With £260 million in committed funds, ECDI is the largest management buy-out pool in the UK. It was conceived by Electra and its partner, Candover, following their observation of the advantages of the mega-fund in the US so successfully developed by Kohlberg, Kravis Roberts & Co., in whose funds Electra is also an investor.

"We have nourished the market and directors of public companies are now well aware of the management buy-outs as an effective option in the divestiture of assets. Managements, too, can see the opportunity these new techniques offer them to enjoy substantial stakes in their own businesses."

"It is not our only method of equity investment but leveraged and management buy-outs at present represent a high proportion of our transaction activity. Specialising on both sides of the Atlantic has allowed us to marry UK and US skills and attitudes — we believe it's a particularly potent formula," says Stoddart.

Above all things, Electra seeks opportunity on which to exercise its special expertise in private equity risk investment.

It is prepared to respond quickly to propositions brought to it from the financial and industrial communities. It also generates its own opportunity which it can share with other interested investors. Relevant investments tend to have a five year time frame and are made in units up to £10 million.

In connection with the recently completed management buy-out of the Bowater paper interests, Chairman Tom Wilding said "we could not have done this transaction without Electra's capability to respond quickly."

"We have a large capital base, a highly specialised team which is friendly to deal with and an ability to move fast," says Stoddart. "We choose managements carefully but never hamper them — the better our choice, the lower our risk. Investment is a serious business but we also believe dealing with Electra should be fun."



ELECTRA INVESTMENT TRUST PLC.
Electra House, Temple Place, London WC2R 3HP
Telephone: 01-836 7766

RECENT MANAGEMENT BUY-OUTS

Anitec

This US investment was introduced in 1981 by Gerhard Andlinger, previously head of ITT Europe. Electra co-invested with Andlinger and two other US financial institutions to acquire the graphic arts division of GAF. The original investment was approximately \$1 million. The Andlinger management group achieved an excellent turn around and the original investment was returned fifteen times when most of it was sold in 1986.

Haden

Electra Investment Trust acted in the lead capacity with what is called a white knight rescue of the Haden Group when they were bid for by Trafalgar House in 1985. Electra and a number of other institutions provided the equity and preferred capital in this £57m transaction. The management performed outstandingly and to date one major division has been sold with management's approval and the remaining subsidiaries are highly profitable.

Bowater

Bowater Industries PLC sold its UK paper-manufacturing and merchandising activities to its management in September 1986 for £38 million. The new company is Britain's biggest paper-maker with an output of almost half a million tonnes a year. Electra was the lead investor.

General C

Newbridge stroll to vic

Heirs not af

Waterloo fe

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Braham 1, Radditch 1.

● "What a waste of an entrance," mutters Georgie (Jimmy Nail) after taking an axe to a front door, only to find those inside snoring. So, in a scene from *Shameless* (BBC1, 10.10pm) shows life at the street end of the heroin trade, its vicious circles and violent endings. It was filmed in Edinburgh with an eye for the seedy poetry of urban bleakness. In such a wasteland, it's faces not the buildings that get redesigned, and a broken nose is the only trophy. In a world of only contenders or losers (winners leave), Georgie and Dunny (Brian Cox) haven't a chance. They take to drug dealing, with a London connection and everything, but Dunny is given to drunken self-persecution. "What do I care, mate?" he doesn't care. Just me and my life's becoming bad company."

Scoreless's *Mean Streets*. For once, script, cast and direction are all a match for each other.

● "I did not go into general practice for the good of my health," says John Wells's dubious doctor in *Rude Health* (Channel 4, 9.30pm), a new comedy series. "Nor for anyone else's, I'd imagine," comes the tart reply. *Rude Health* opens with a class comedy with Wells's crusty doctor sucking up to anyone higher up the ladder (ie potential private patients) while beating down those beneath. There are no signs yet of the kind of inspired social snobbery that could drive Wells to make such a frisky comedy. But there are suggestions that they might yet come.

Chris Pettit

Chris Petit



Triple trouble in the surgery: Paul Mari, John Wells and John Bett star in a new comedy Rude Health (Ch4, 9.30pm)

6.00 **Cross AM.**
6.55 **Weather.**
7.00 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough, Sally Magnusson, and Jeremy Paxman. National and international news at 7.00, 7.15, 7.30 and 7.45. Local regional news and traffic reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.
8.40 **Watchers 8.55 Regional** news and weather.
9.00 **News and weather 9.05** Day to Day. Robert Kilroy-Silk, his guests, Melissa Sadoff and Irma Kurtz, and the studio audience, discuss 'how to be a good woman' on *Q & A*. Parent Programme. Incoherence in mothers and children.
10.00 **News and weather 10.05** Neighbours. (i) 10.25 Children's BBC. Presented by Philip Schofield. 10.30 *Play School*. (i) 10.50 *Paddington*. (i)
10.55 **Five to Eleven.** Hannah Gordon with a thought for the day. 11.00 *News* and weather 11.05 *Gardeners' World* from Italy. 11.30 *Lancaster* visits the Villa Taranto, overlooking Lake Maggiore. (i) 11.35 *Open Air*. Includes news and weather at 12.00.
12.20 **The Tom O'Connor Roadshow.** Variety show from the Tom Talbot. 12.55 *Regional news* and weather.
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Martyn Lewis. Weather 1.25 *Neighbours*. Maria receives flowers from a stranger 1.50 *Monkey Collect*. (i)
2.05 **The Wheelchair-bound Detective** investigates the case of a stranger who specialises in elderly victims. (i) 2.35 *Music Match*. Music quiz presented by Linda Lind and Willie Rushton 3.25 *Valerie*. American sit-com starring Valerie Harper.
3.50 **The Amazing Adventures of**



Trouble and strife: A shock for Cyril (Philip Whitchurch) as his ex-

8.55 Open University: Maths - Tutor-Marked Assignments. Ends at 7.20.

9.55 The Last Days in the Lords. (?)

9.53 Daytime on Two: twice and benefits 10.00 For four- and five-year-olds 10.15 Music: Harry James, part one 10.58 Features show set plants 11.06 Paul Coia explores Vancouver 11.22 Walrus 11.48 Tutorial topics - appearances; and fame.

12.06 The new language version of the programme about an Alfa Romeo shop started 12.46 Abortion 1.05 Micro Live 1.50 The Impact of Technology 2.00 News and weather. 2.02 The story of The Three Billy Goats Gruff 2.17 Old and new Blackpool. See Hints. (?)

2.35 News and weather.

3.00 The Ascent of Man. Part 11 of Dr Bronowski's personal view of the history of Mankind. (?)

3.50 News, regional news and weather.

4.00 Pamela Armstrong. The presentation of the Broadcasting Press Guild Awards.

5.05 Demonstration on Stage. Crime writer Simon Brett talks about how he combines humour and crime in his novels.

5.30 Did You See...? A revised version of yesterday's programme on which comment was passed on Heart of the Country, Tuttle Frutti, and Promises and Pleasures.

6.00 Filmed Ambushes (1968) starring Dean Martin, Sami Berger, and Janice Rule. Super-agent Matt Helm investigates the hijacking of a new type of car which has been unaided by the pilot who has developed America. Directed by Henry Levin.

7.40 Open Space All People Great and Small. The first of a series profiles Dr John, and his nurse wife, Helen, whose practice covers 250 square miles of the North Yorkshire Dales.

8.19 How to Engineer Is Human. A documentary that examines why engineering can never be an exact science. With Professor Henry Petroski of Duke University, North Carolina, describing the myriad ways in which structures can fail.

9.00 French and Saunders. Comedy skits from Dawn and Jennifer, aided and abetted by Ray Sax, and, this week, Roy Castle.

9.30 Moonlighting. The principals of Blue Movie Detective Agency are on the trail of a woman's secret admirer in order to prevent a killing.

10.15 Hello Mum. Off-beat comedy sketches.

10.45 Newswatch 11.30 Weather.

11.25 Telejournal. A newscast from Italy's RA3 channel.

12.00 Open University: Poetry - Language and History. Ends late

11.25 TV-am introduced by Richard Keys. Weather at 6.28 and 6.55; news at 6.50; sport at 6.40 and exercises at 6.55.

7.00 *Good Morning Britain* presented by Anne Diamond and Mike Morris. News at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; cartoon at 7.25; sport at 7.40; pop music at 7.55; and Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.35. After nine guests include Miriam Stoppard.

9.25 Thames news headlines.

9.30 *Schools: Gulliver's Travels*, part three 8.47 Clay figures 8.59 Learning to read with Bill Odde 10.11 The natural history of ordinary surroundings 10.26 How a girl's magazine responds to readers' problems 10.45 German for 13- to 15-year-olds 11.07 Simple number concepts 11.19 Science: shape and strength 11.41 The interpretation of a story on television and on the news.

12.00 *Flicks. (r)* 12.10 Let's Pretend to the Tale of The Scarecrow Cat.

12.30 *A Woman's World*. The story of Teresa, a Philippine woman who has been working in London for eight years. Last in the series.

1.00 One O'Clock News with Leonard Purkin 1.20 Thames news.

1.30 *Film: The Whippersnappers* (1967) starring Edith Evans and Eric Portman. A drama about an old, lonely lady, deserted by her husband, who spends her time talking to disembodied voices she hears in her flat. Directed by Bryan Forbes.

3.25 Thames news headlines.

3.30 *The Young Doctors*.

4.00 *Tickle on the Tum*. Village tales for children 4.10 *Batnik. (r)* 4.20 *How Darn You Slapsack*: fun and games 4.28 *Roadrunner*. 4.45 *The Secret World of Polly Flint*. The story of a young girl who lives in a world of her own. Starring Kate Reynolds.

Ship-shape and saddle fashion through Landrodd Wells to

2.00 *The Late Late Show: A special St Patrick Day's edition.* Play guests are **Charles Haughey**, **The Dubliners**, **U2**, **The Pogues**, **Jim McCann**, **Luke Kelly**, **Christy Moore**, **The Furey Brothers** and **David Arthur**, and **Stoockin's Wing**.

3.30 *Irish Angle.* This last programme of the series introduces the Festival of the Irish lands surrounding the **EEC's**, **Common Agricultural Policy**.

4.00 *Mavis on 4.* **Mavis Nicholson** in conversation with and listening to the music of cellist **Paul Tortelier**.

4.30 *Countdown.* **Derek Roddis** from **Sheffield** is this week's challenger.

5.00 *Heroes & Heroes.* Vintage American comedy series about a group of resourceful Allied prisoners-of-war who make life difficult for their captors.

5.30 *The Abbott and Costello Show.* **Lou** meets his dream girl in a cafe.

6.00 *Back to the Roots.* In this continuing programme of **Richard Mabey's** series on the history of traditional British plants he talks to enthusiasts who preserve our heritage of wild flowers. (r) **Education Extra. Weekly magazine programme on the subject of education, presented by **Jim Cochrane**.**

7.00 *Franchise 4 News.* **Peter Sissons** introduces a report on a new whooping cough vaccine unavailable in this country but safer, say the Japanese, than any existing treatment.

7.50 *Weather.* Forecast followed by **Weather**.

8.00 *Brookside.* **Doreen** visits **Billy** in **Tunbridge Wells** and is disgusted; and **Pat** and **Terry** are married when they are visited by a pregnant woman.

8.30 *Chateaufort - Fortune and Power.* Episode 8 of the French drama serial about the rivalry between two powerful French families.

9.30 *Red & White.* The first of a new seven-part comedy series starring **John Wells**, **John Bett**, and **Paul Merial** as three doctors in general practices in the Highlands.

10.00 *Cartoon.* See **Choice**.

10.10 *Hill Street Blues.* Joyce **Davenport's** life is in jeopardy when she learns of a plot to assassinate the mayor; and **Sgt. Stan Jablonski** is plagued by cocaine telephone calls. (Oracle)

10.55 *The Eleventh Hour: Red Skirts on Clydeside.* The story of the 1915 Glasgow **Rent Strike**. Followed by **Oracle** and **Domini**. Comments made by churchmen over the centuries concerning women. (r) Followed by **Women of the Rhonda**. **Four Rhonda** in the Rhonda tells about their part in the 1926 strike. (r)

12.05 *Their Lordships' House.* Ends at 12.25.

[illegible]

On medium wave. Stereo
on WHP (see below)
News on the half-hour from
6:30am until 8:30pm then at
10:00 and 12:00.
Sports on Wren John 7-90
Mike Smith's Breakfast Show 8-90
Simon Bates 12-30pm
Newswatch (Frank Patrick) 12-45
John Wright 3-00 Steve Wright
5-45 Newsbeat (Frank Patrick)
5-45 Brown Brookes 7-30 Tom
Robinson 10-00
Radio 1 on R1 and 2
4:00am As Radio 2 10:00pm As
Radio 1 12:00-4:00am As
Radio 2

On medium wave. Stereo on
WHP (see Radio 1)
News on the hour. Headlines
5:30am, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30. Sports
Desk at 8:31am, 7-91, 8-91,
9-91, 10-91, 11-91, 12-91, 1-92,
2-92, 4-92, 6-92 (m) only, 9-92
4:00am Colin Barry 5:30 Ray
Moore 7:30 David James 9:00
Ken Snelson 10:00 Jimmy Young
10:05 Paul Daniels 2:00 Gloria
Hunford 4:00 Vince Hall 5:05
Chris Rea 7:00 Alan Jones with
Sue 8:00 Band 3 Big Band
Band Special (BBC Big Band)
00 Humphrey Lytton with Jazz
ensemble 10:00 The Kennedy Mob
on record 10:00 The Kennedy Mob
on record 10:00 Great Movie
Musical Directors - Michel Legrand
11:00 Brian Auger 1:00am
Patrick Lunt 3:00-4:00 A Little Night

[illegible]

6.35 Open University (vht only).
Renaissance
Portraits.

6.55 Weather 7.00 News

7.05 Morning Concert
Barizot, Overtire
Benvenuto Cellini (BBC SO
under Sir Colin Davis);
Erik Satie, Erik Satie
Fischer-Dieskau, Gerald
Moore); Burnes, Passacalle
(Albion Vinyl Ensemble);
Madama, Mon Chéri
s'ouvre à la voix (Maria
Callas, FNO under Georges
Prêtre); Rimsky-
Korsakov, Suite
The Golden Cockeret (SNO
under Neeme Järvi).

8.00 News

8.10 Grand, Ballet music
from Faust (BTO under
Rochdestvensky); Ravel,
Fascinat from Les
Folies Tréopiques (Marie Lise de
Mormolin, mezzo-
soprano; Hugues Calzad,
bass); Tchaikovsky, Suite
Ansermet; Tchaikovsky, Swan
d'Action from Swan
Lake, Act II (Joseph
Kovach, violin; Jules
Askin, cello; BSO under Seiji
Ozawa); Stravinsky,
Suite: The Firebird (BBC SO
under Pierre Boulez).

9.00 World Service News

9.10 This Week's Composer:
Jean-Baptiste Lully
Lully (Air de la Reine);
Alcaisto (Felicity Palmer,
mezzo-soprano; Bruce

10.00 Elizabeth Maconchy,
 Epitaph for cello and
 strings (Christopher van
 Kampen; Orchestra of
 St John's, Smith Square
 under John Lubbock);
 Symphony for double string
 orchestra (LSO under
 Vernon Handley); Ariadne
 (Heather Harper,
 soprano; ECO under
 Raymond Leppard).
 11.05 Cello and Piano.
 Raphael and Peter
 Weitzsch play Jancsek's
 Pongrutz, Schubert's
 Sonata in A minor (D 821)
 (Araggione), Bartók's
 Rhapsody No 1.
 11.50 Cello and Piano.
 Weitzsch and Grant
 Jewell play Haydn's
 Symphony No 69 in C and
 Dvorák's Symphony No
 5 in F.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1:1055
 92.5; Radio 4: 200KHz/1500m
 1458KHz/206m; VHF 94.8; 50

1.00 News
1.05 BBC Lunchtime Concert
Janina Fialkowska
(piano), Mendelssohn,
Fantasy in F sharp
minor, Op 28; Beethoven,
Sonata in A flat, Op 110;
Schubert,
Faschingsschwank aus
Wien, Op 28.
2.05 Music Weekly
New Record of the
Week
2.15 Concerts Op 10, No 3
(Northern Sinfonia under
Richard Hickox);
Vaughan Williams, Five
Variants of Dives and
Lezarus (LPO under Brydan
Thornes); Britten, Agnus
Dei (Choir of St John's
College, Cambridge
under George Guest);
Purcell, Voluntary in D
(Albion Consort,
organ); Britten,
Rhapsody (Emulsion String
ensemble); Coen
Matthews, Cello Concerto
(Alexander Baillie,
London Sinfonietta under
John Neschewsky); George
Lloyd, Symphony No 7 (BBC
PO); Lord Berners,
Fugue (RLPO under Barry
Woodward).

5.00 World Service News
5.10 Mainly for Pleasure.
5.45 News
7.00 Music for Organ, Jane
Watts plays Franck,
Prelude, Fugue and
Variation, Op 16; Karla-

7.35 **Handel and Goss**
Verses and Chorals
by R.H.H. Harris and Gretel
Opera by Humphreys
with Barbara Bonney and
David Evangelista
Interval recorded at 8.55.
9.25 **Music at Finchcocks.**
Part songs by Haydn,
Beethoven and
Bach. Richard Zeller, piano
pieces by J. B. Cramer
(Chrysosouru under
Nigel Rogers), jazz: Richard
Burnett, piano).
10.05 **Five Today.** Fay
Nieman, Steve Loddner.
First Night. David Nokes
reviews *The Emperor at
London's Royal Court*
Theatre.
11.05 **Schumann Chamber
Music.** Fairy Tales, Op
132 (Harold Wright, clarinet;
Baris Kroyt, viola,
Manny Parashia, piano).
Piano Trio No 1, in D
minor (Jacques Thibaud, violin,
Pablo Casals,
cello, Alfred Cortot, piano)
11.57 **News.**

On long wave (a) stereo on VHF
5:55 Shepding 5,000 News
 Briefing: Weather 6:10
 Forecast for Today 6:35 Prayer
 for the Day (S)
6:30 Today, and 6:30, 7:30,
 8:30 News Summary
 Business News 6:55,
 7:55 Weather; Travel
 7:00, 8:00 News 7:25,
 8:25 Sport 7:45
6:55 The Week on 4
6:45 Ian Skidmore goes on
 an adventure through
 the archives. 8:57 Weather;
 Travel
9:00 News
9:05 Start the Week, with
 Richard Baker (S)
9:55 Alan Titchmarsh talks
 about gardens open to
 the public raising funds for
 those who are under
 stress through caring for
 the sick and elderly
10:00 News; Money
 Louise Botting with
 listeners' questions about
 personal finance.
10:30 Morning Story
 Requiem for Eddie, by
 Cram Pilkington. Read by
 Crawford Logan.
10:45 Service, from St
 George's Brandon Hill,
 Bristol, with the choir of St
 Mary Redcliffe and
 Temple School (S)
11:00 News; Down Your Way.
 Brian Johnston visits
 Highbury Stadium, home of
 Tottenham Hotspur

11:00 **News: You and Yours.** Consumer affairs with Susan Rae. Includes the results of a national poll about whether lower taxes would win votes.
12:00 **Prompt 1** Quiz game about the theatre
12:27 **Prompt 2** Interviewed by Sheila Hancock with Penelope Wilton and Joss Ackland v Denise Coffey and Ian Charleston (c) 12.55
1:00 **The World at One.** News
1:40 **The Archers** 1.55
Shipping
2:00 **News: Woman's Hour** with Jenni Murray.
2:30 **Jeopardy!** Jeopardy! Some women who have won sex discrimination and pay cases.
3:00 **News: The Afternoon**
Play: Alphabetical Order. by Michael Frayn.
2:59 89.3kHz/433m; 90.8kHz/330m
VHF 97.3; Capital 154.8kHz/19

Repeat from Saturday (s)
4.30 Kaleidoscope. The Rhythm Method – an examination of the Kodaly method, an educational system developed by Hungarian composer Zoltan Kodaly, whose ideas have had a surprising impact on musical life here.
5.00 P.M. News Magazine
5.45 Westminster
6.00 The Six O'clock News; Weather
6.30 The News Quiz (s)
7.00 News
7.20 The Archers
7.30 Inside Job. An intimate view of working life in Lancashire. Phil Smith talks to the Terracorns.
8.45 Science Now. Peter Evans with the latest news from the world's leading laboratories.
9.15 The Monday Play: Condemning Violence. John Glemming (s)
9.30 More Wrestling than Dancing. David Moresu tries to come to grips with life
9.45 Kaleidoscope. Includes Tim Finley's new book *Famous Last Words*, and John Russell's film *The Fourth Protocol*. Crown and Camera at the Queen's Gallery and Swan Lake at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Love Lies Bleeding, by
Edmond Crispin (p) 10.29
Weather
10.30 The World Tonight
11.15 The Financial World
Tonight
11.30 Tonight in Parliament
12.00 Newsline 12.33
Shopping
VHF (available in England and
S Wales only) as above except:
5.55-6.00am Theatre; Travel
11.00-12.00 For Schools, 11.00
The Money Movers 11.30 Let's
Move (s) 11.40 The Music Box (s)
11.50 See For Yourself 1.55-
2.00pm For Schools, 1.55
Listening Corner 2.30 Runtime
(s) 2.50 School Sports (s) 2.40
Pictures in Your Mind 5.50-
5.55 PM (continued) 11.30 Open
University, 11.30 18th Century
Police: Britain's Past
12.00 The Nature
Watchers 12.10am
Music Interlude 12.30-1.10am
Schools Night Time
Broadcasting, Consumer
Education 1.15 Live Line Money (s)
1.20 1.21: Buying Things 2.50 2:
Leisure and Pleasure
Radio 3: 1215kHz/247mVHF-9K
2: VHF95.3; BBC Radio London

Every year, thousands of families have their happiness and unity shattered by the news that one of them has cancer.

It can't help them to live with cancer. Or help to put the pieces of their lives back together again.

But Cancer Relief can. Our Macmillan nurses are trained to care for both the physical and mental pain this ruthless disease causes.

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Cancer Relief Macmillan fund
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Telephone: 01-351 7811.

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Quality gets the better of crudity as Spurs advance

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Wimbledon..... 0
Tottenham Hotspur..... 2

The "Big Five", as the handful of wealthy English clubs are known, are expected to collect all the season's domestic honours again. Liverpool should complete another double by winning the League and the Littlewoods Cup and Tottenham Hotspur are now the clear favourites to lift the FA Cup for a record eighth time.

Some may argue that the balance of power is weighed so heavily in their favour, that the destiny of the three trophies is too predictable and that the flame of hope for the rest is slowly but inexorably being extinguished. In contrast, evidence is strewn across the last six years.

But viewers, such as those who watched the live coverage of yesterday's sixth round tie at Plough Lane, cannot complain about the standard of quality shown by the elite. Tottenham provided almost every single touch of class, finesse and subtlety enclosed within an otherwise unattractive

and at times ugly afternoon. Wimbledon, assembled like rows of coiled barbed wire, are physically intimidating. Tottenham had painful memories of their methods. In the League fixture at White Hart Lane earlier in the season, Roberts was carried off with what he thought was a broken leg and Stevens fractured a shoulder.

Tottenham's limbs were again in danger of being either disconnected, shattered or at best badly bruised. Wimbledon opened with their usual array of assaults (Hodges on Hodge and Ardisles for instance, and Wise and Sanchez on Hodge). The referee, inexcusably, took no action then nor later when Hodge was tripped by Beasant.

The incident, almost the only one of note to colour the first half, followed a swift exchange between Paul Allen and Hodge. Hodge accelerated into the area, swerved away from Wimbledon's giant goalkeeper and found that his feet

instead of controlling the ball, had been taken away. Clemence alone was responsible for restoring the sense of justice a few minutes before the interval. His save from Jones was even more remarkable, considering his preparations. On Thursday four of his teeth, loosened by a collision with Arsenal's Quinn, were extracted. On Friday night he was taken to hospital suffering with a haemorrhage.

Parks, the reserve goalkeeper, was put on standby and David Platt, Tottenham's manager, selected Clemence for special praise. "He was a particular hero," he said. The outstanding Gough was not far behind. He could scarcely use his injured right foot and both he and Stevens, troubled by a hamstring, had been considered doubtful.

Mabbutt, competing with the taller and abrasive Fashanu in the air, was no less admirable either. And his central partnership with Gough was the foundation of their victory. The key to it was produced by Waddle and Hodge with two flashes of inspiration within the closing half a dozen minutes.

Waddle, who had started the move himself inside the centre circle, accepted the return from Chasen and sent the ball down the right flank. He then used Winterburn with a series of feints before surprising Beasant with a shot that divided the gap between him and the near post.

Waddle was involved in the second as well. As he searched for a diagonal pass, he was the victim of another late and crude tackle by Thorn, who once more escaped punishment. From a distance of some 25 yards, Hodge delightedly curled a free kick over the reach of Beasant.

"That was for Danny Thomas," he said in reference to the injured full back whose season was brought to an end last week. "I'm pleased that we did not succumb," Platt added. "It is easy to cave in against them," as Everton and particularly Portsmouth found to their cost in earlier rounds of the competition.

Tottenham completed an unusual sequence in becoming the fourth of the visitors to reach the semi-final. WIMBLEDON: R. Tunks, D. Hamilton, B. Knowles, M. Hodges, A. Grimes, P. Beasant, C. Jones, C. Thompson, B. Campbell, P. Jewell (sub: J. Butler), I. Griffiths. LEEDS UNITED: M. Day, N. Aspin, M. Adams, J. Salter, J. Ashurst, D. Rennie, A. Ritchie, R. Sheridan, J. Pearson, K. Edwards, S. Grant. Referee: N. Hodgley.

Wigan Cup hopes left in ruins

By Martin Searby

Wigan Athletic..... 0
Leeds United..... 2

Wigan's effort to become only the seventh third division club to win a place in the semi-finals of the FA Cup in its 115-year history foundered on a superior Leeds defence which gave them little opportunity to show the little-known skills which accounted for Norwich and Hull.

In contrast, their own back four gave the ball away twice in the second half to give Leeds chances which were ruthlessly exploited by Stiles, scoring his first goal of the season, and Adams, his second for the club.

With a ferocious wind at their backs in the first half, Campbell, the Northern Ireland international, battled manfully with the Ashurst, of Leeds, and Thompson and Griffiths had shots blocked by Day's legs at the end.

In Sheridan, Leeds have the best performer on the field, and he posed no end of problems with good close

control and skilfully weighted passes. After a 30-yard run, he brought a fine save from the goalkeeper who pushed his drive over the bar.

Wigan's liveliest performer was Lowe, the right-winger, and early in the second half he provided a good cross for Campbell whose header at the far post hit the woodwork. A Sheridan corner from the left forced Tunks to push the ball over the bar and the next one was only partially cleared by Cribbley. Rennie tied the ball up and Stiles curled a right-foot shot beyond Tunks.

Leeds sealed the tie with their second goal. There was hesitancy when Adams, the Leeds full-back, held onto the ball to cut in from the left. As defenders fell back, he hit a right-foot shot past the goalkeeper to take Leeds into the semi-finals for the first time in 10 years.

WIMBLEDON: R. Tunks, D. Hamilton, B. Knowles, M. Hodges, A. Grimes, P. Beasant, C. Jones, C. Thompson, B. Campbell, P. Jewell (sub: J. Butler), I. Griffiths. LEEDS UNITED: M. Day, N. Aspin, M. Adams, J. Salter, J. Ashurst, D. Rennie, A. Ritchie, R. Sheridan, J. Pearson, K. Edwards, S. Grant. Referee: N. Hodgley.

Briton lifts Congressional Cup

Eddie Warden-Owen, the former navigator aboard Britain's America's Cup challenger, White Crusader, won the Congressional Cup at Longbeach, California on Saturday to become only the second non-American to win this event in the 22-year history of this premier match

race championship (Barry Pickthall writes). Warden-Owen clinched the series at his first attempt after beating the Stars and Stripes navigator, Peter Isler, and the Olympic gold medal winner, Robbie Haines, on the final day.

Crebbin led a British clean sweep of the medals at the inaugural Commonwealth Regatta which finished in Bombay on Saturday. The two Enterprise sailors won the series, with a race to spare. Graham and Martin Ellis took the silver.

Results, page 36



You can't keep a good leg man down: Fashanu (left) gets encircled with Mabbutt (Photograph: Hugh Routledge).

Jackson finishes with UK treble

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

Colin Jackson finished the indoor athletics season as well as he started it, with a United Kingdom record. Pity about the in-between. Jackson, favourite for the European 60 metres hurdles title, finished second and was out of the medals in the world championships last week. He made amends yesterday with his third UK record of the season, 7.52 seconds, the fifth-fastest ever.

Jackson also defeated former world record holder, Mark McKoy of Canada and world champion, Tonie Campbell of the United States.

The times, if not the championship performances, auger well for Jackson's first season outdoors. World junior champion last summer, he was only 0.01sec outside Mark Holton's UK 100 metres hurdles record of 13.43sec. And as good as the reduction of his indoor time from 7.78sec to 7.52sec is the fact that Jackson is crossing hurdles with McKoy and Campbell, regular sub-13.30sec performers. McKoy has little doubt about Jackson's potential. "He's young, fast and aggressive. He has a great future."

So might John Regis have at 400m if he could persuade himself to move up a distance. Regis impressed as much with his Commonwealth 300m best of 33.22sec in the Dairy Crest invitation yesterday as with his debut 400m of 45.47sec in the relay on Friday night at Cosford.

No such reservations from Steve Hurd about moving up from 400 to 800m. His 600m victory in 1min 17.12sec yesterday over Tony Morrell and American record holder Chip Jenkins, were proof enough that he can handle two laps when the time comes.

Yvonne Murray was happier to accommodate a two mile race yesterday, even though she runs the world cross country championships in Warsaw next weekend. She beat Krishna Wood, the woman who pipped her in the World Indoor Championships in Indianapolis last week and won the two mile in 9.36.85, a Commonwealth record.

Yesterday the Irish gave the British a lesson in middle distance indoor running. Frank O'Mara, the world indoor 3,000 metres champion, beat John Gladwin in the 2,000m in 5.04.31 and Eamonn Coghlan won the two miles in 8.24.61.

Results, page 36

Sparkling Frost's fourth title

By Richard Eaton

Morten Frost, of Denmark, earned his fourth Yonex All-England title and the victory that European badminton badly needed when he overcame Luk Sugianto, the World Cup winner from Indonesia, 15-10, 15-0, in a match of contrasts in front of 5,000 people at Wembley yesterday.

The first game was a tremendous tussle, containing many rallies of more than 50 strokes and two of more than 100 strokes as the two strongest and fittest men in the sport grappled for a weakness. Having found it, Frost, the top seed and defending champion, saw his opponent disintegrate dramatically, winning only four rallies in a second game that lasted only 10 minutes.

An earlier victory for Kirsten Larsen in the women's competition meant that for the first time since 1965 two Europeans had taken All-England singles titles; they were also the first pair of Danes to win since 1948.

Larsen, who on her 25th birthday on Saturday celebrated by beating the top seeded Li Lingwei of China, won the final against another Chinese player, Qian Ping, because at 8-7 in the first game her opponent twisted horribly as she fell in the backhand corner, and was left holding an injured knee and waving for help.

She was carried from the arena and left the stadium on crutches. For the second successive year there were no British finalists, which is worrying. However, there was comfort from Steve Baddeley's performance in becoming the first home semi-finalist in the men's singles in 48 years and a defeat with honour by 15-13, 15-7 to Sugianto on Saturday.

The thoughts of England's other national champion, Helen Troke, still in plaster and on crutches after suffering a ruptured tendon can only be imagined. She sat and watched as the player she beat in last year's European final made her way into history.

RESULTS: Men's singles: Frost (Den) to Sugianto (Indo), 15-10, 15-0. Women's singles: Frost to Larsen (Den) to Qian Ping (China) 8-7, retired. Men's doubles: Frost to Li Lingwei and Tian Bingyi (China) to B. Brando and R. Haryanto (Indo), 15-6, 15-6. Mixed doubles: Frost, Le Deak to Choo and Chang Myung Ho (S Korea) to S. Antonsson and C. Magnusson (Swe), 15-6, 15-10, 15-6.

England delay selection of squad

Mike Weston, chairman of selectors, will issue a statement during the next 48 hours on England's rugby team to play Scotland on April 4. The 21-man squad will not be named until Wednesday week.

This can only mean that one or more players is not going to be considered following the punches in Cardiff a week ago. The selectors need to know who they can pick before they settle down to choosing the squad.

Wade Dooley looks the likeliest candidate to be

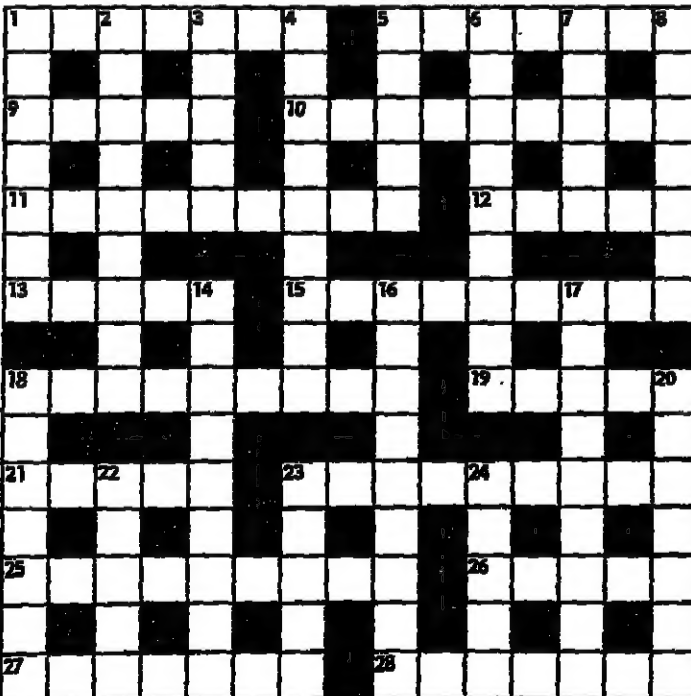
handed what would be a unique public suspension from the international team as a result of conduct in the England shirt. The Blackpool policeman broke the cheekbone and nose of Welsh forward Phil Davies and he has borne the overwhelming share of England's guilt just as England took the entire blame for the unpleasant match.

Matt Duncan, having proved his fitness, will take his place on the Scotland wing to

face Wales next weekend (Ian McLachlan writes). There are two changes on the replacement bench with Roger Baird returning to fill the A N Other spot and Kenny Milne, the youngest brother of Ian, coming in to replace the injured hooker, Gary Callender who has a knee injury.

The inclusion of Baird leaves Scotland short of cover for stand-off John Rutherford, although both Baird and Robertson have limited experience there.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,305



- ACROSS
- Have police force attached to ship (7).
 - Digging can be tiring (7).
 - Point made by a well-known statesman (5).
 - People engaged in a welcome correspondence (9).
 - Reinact on being put in command (9).
 - Vote in new rate for more than is necessary (5).
 - Rent a Dalmatian holiday place (5).
 - Left unrestrained (9).
 - Takes food into seamen, so causing delay (9).
 - The vagrant goes right on (5).
 - Excellent supporter - opposed to none (5).
 - Guides posted by the way (4,5).
 - Many Italians can translate Spanish (9).
 - Consign underground in very plain terms (5).
 - Figure the top man is wearing a label (7).
 - Motif of the French - ever fashionable (7).
- DOWN
- Step around a chap turning over hats (7).
 - He'll slaughter the unknown outside left (9).
 - The so-called character (5).
 - Jaded fellow putting an end to the game (9).
 - Second has to ask for the use of an aerosol (5).
 - One who claims there's little money about on offer (9).
 - Setting a writer up in it is quite pointless (5).
 - Gained ground in the Baltic (7).
 - This suits the men (9).
 - The sailor coloured and wouldn't have a drink (9).
 - It's wrong to rag Ivan the pilot (9).
 - ... divine, rare, superexcellent (Burton) (7).
 - Book store (7).
 - Because firm gets possession (5).
 - Sovereignty's downfall, it is said (5).
 - The nationality of the Robinsons (5).

WEATHER

General situation: Frontal troughs will move slowly east into the British Isles. It will be dry in most districts at first, apart from a few showers in the north-east. Some sunshine is likely in the east. Cloud will slowly increase from the west during the day, with rain spreading to most western and central regions. Temperatures will be near or rather below the seasonal normal. Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Rain, followed by brighter, showery weather, with some snow in the north. Becoming windy.

ABROAD

MODAY: A, cloud; D, drizzle; I, fair; L, fog; r, rain; s, sun; S, sun & shower; S, shower

City	Temp	Wind	City	Temp	Wind
Algeria	12	S	Madrid	5	SS
Algiers	15	SW	Malaga	5	SS
Alexandria	15	SW	Marseille	5	SS
Amsterdam	14	SW	Medan	13	SS
Ankara	6	SW	Medan	13	SS
Athens	6	SW	Miami	21	W
Bahama	29	SW	Miami	21	W
Barcelona	13	SS	Montreal	5	SS
Bombay	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Buenos Aires	0	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Burgundy	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Calcutta	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Cardiff	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Chennai	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Cairo	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Cebu	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Chicago	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Chongqing	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Cincinnati	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Columbus	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Dakar	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Damascus	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Darwin	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Delhi	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Detroit	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Dublin	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Edinburgh	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Geneva	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Hankow	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Hong Kong	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
London	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Lyons	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Manila	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Medan	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Moscow	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Mumbai	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Nairobi	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Paris	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Peking	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Perth	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Port of Spain	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Rangoon	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Reykjavik	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Rio de Janeiro	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Rome	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Sao Paulo	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Seoul	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Shanghai	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Singapore	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Sofia	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Stockholm	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Sydney	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Taipei	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Tel Aviv	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Tokyo	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Toronto	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Ulan Bator	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Warsaw	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Wellington	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Yokohama	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS
Zurich	10	SS	Moscow	5	SS

* denotes Saturday's figures are latest available

AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	City	Temp	Wind
Cardiff	5.4	SS	London	5.4	SS
Edinburgh	5.4	SS	London	5.4	SS
Glasgow	5.4	SS	London	5.4	SS
Manchester	5.4	SS	London	5.4	SS
London	5.4	SS	London	5.4	SS
London	5.4	SS	London	5.4	SS
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London	5.4	SS	London	5.	